

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

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**Department of Energy Announces Funding for Projects that Help Consumers Better Manage Their Energy Consumption**

**Washington, DC** – As part of the Administration’s goals to promote a clean energy future, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced \$8 million in funding to encourage utilities, local governments, and communities to create programs that empower consumers to better manage their electricity use through better access to their own electricity consumption data.

“Providing consumers with easy access to their own consumption data is another important step in helping Americans make more informed decisions about their electricity consumption and become more energy efficient,” said Secretary Chu. “As a result, we will see more innovation by entrepreneurs and other third-party providers as they develop valuable applications and services for the consumer.”

New smart grid technologies on the electric grid are generating unprecedented amounts of electricity usage data that can potentially give homes and businesses more control over their electricity choices. However, in order to turn this data into useable information, consumers need tools and software products that are convenient and easy to use, helping them readily understand their electricity use, and helping to realize the full potential of the smart grid.

The “Smart Grid Data Access” Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) addresses the major steps needed for a community to better leverage their smart grid assets on behalf of consumers: creating policies that give consumers and authorized third-parties such as app developers access to customer data; and demonstrating the value of these apps and services across communities.

The FOA, which is available at [Grants.gov](http://Grants.gov) and [FedConnect.net](http://FedConnect.net), provides additional information, including cost-sharing requirements for government-industry cooperation. The deadline for submitting applications is March 2, 2012.

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