Chicago area lands energy-efficiency cash

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The Chicago area has landed $25 million in stimulus cash to make buildings more energy efficient by retrofitting them.

Vice President Joe Biden has announced the selection of 25 communities nationwide for up to $452 million in federal funding for retrofits. Supporters say the various programs will help make energy efficiency accessible to hundreds of thousands of homeowners and businesses.

The U.S. Department of Energy awarded the $25 million to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. It'll put the money into a program called the Chicago Region Retrofit Ramp-up Program, which aims to retrofit both commercial and residential buildings.

Plans include setting up a one-stop-shop info center where building owners can arrange and finance the energy efficiency projects.

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