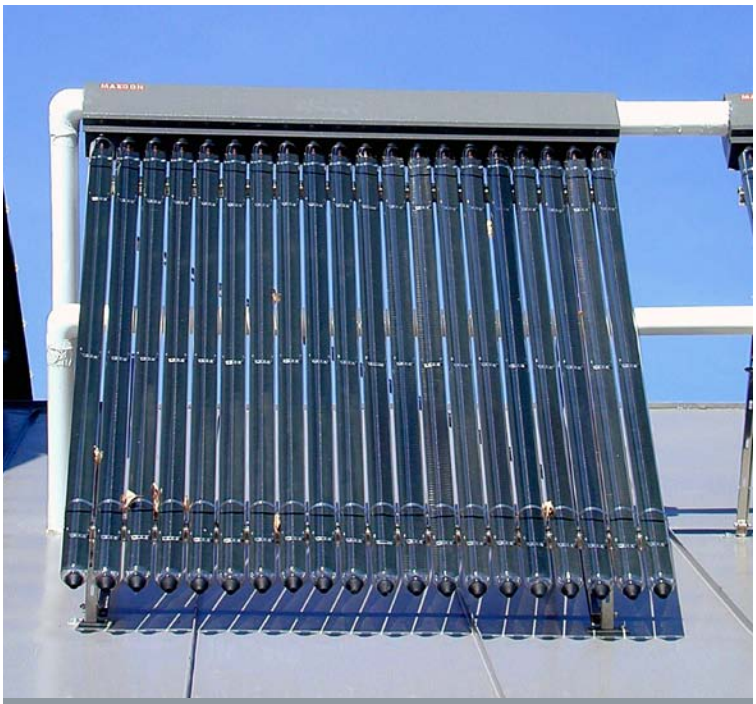
SERC Grants Expand Weatherization Technologies

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) launched Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC) grants, which allow selected local weatherization agencies to install renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies over and above what they can install through the traditional Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

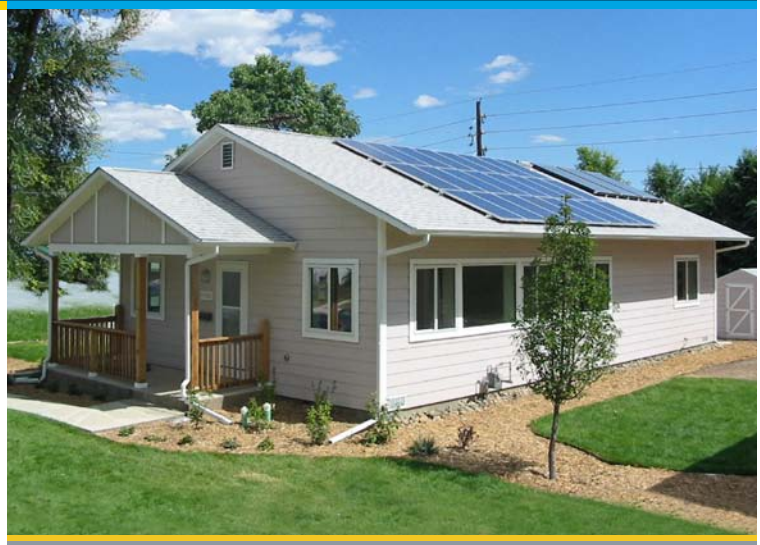
In 2007, the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) included a provision that in any year for which WAP funding exceeds $275 million, up to two percent of the funding can channel through to SERC to pay for "materials, benefits, and renewable and domestic energy technologies" that are not traditionally allowed under WAP.

Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, $90 million was invested to test these types of technologies in low-income residences and help local agencies expand their skillsets to install these technologies. These SERC funds went to nearly 100 local agencies throughout 27 states, who are currently installing, testing, and reporting on the effectiveness of these technologies.



Heat-pipe solar collector arrays installed through SERC can provide hot water for homes in almost any climate.

Photo by Alan Ford, NREL/PIX09501



Solar photovoltaic systems are being installed through SERC to reduce clients' energy bills beyond weatherization.

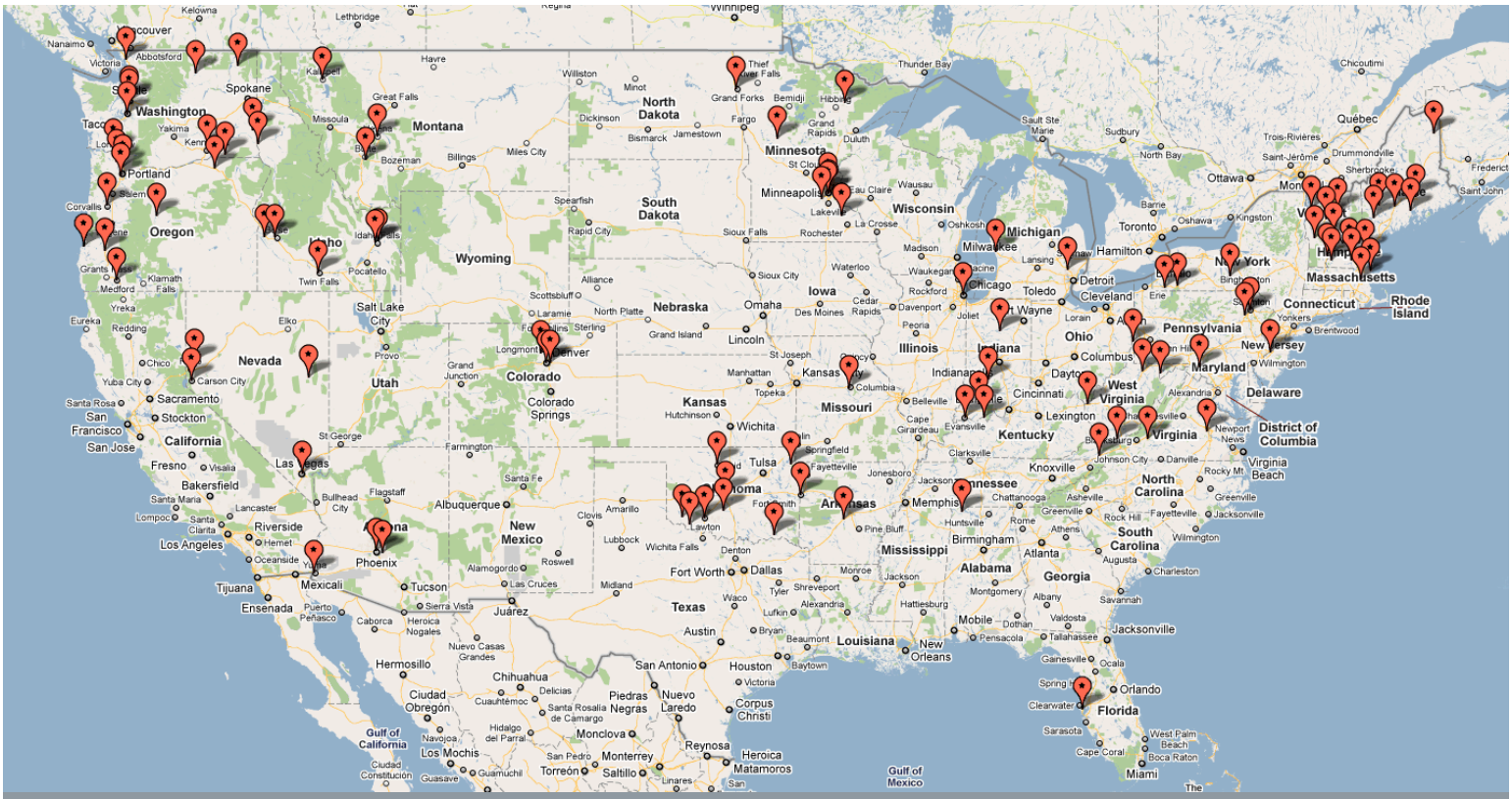
Photo by Pete Beverly, NREL/PIX14163

To assess the impact of the projects, SERC-funded work will be evaluated on two main criteria:

1. The technologies' quantitative impacts, meaning their energy savings, cost-effectiveness, impact on low-income families, and suitability to be incorporated into the traditional Weatherization program.

2. The local agencies' implementation of SERC projects, for instance whether the technologies worked as expected and what issues or barriers were encountered.

Technology	Estimated SERC Funds	Estimated SERC Installations
Solar Hot Water	$20 M	2,500
Solar Photovoltaics	$11 M	1,000
Solar Thermal Air Heating Panels	$5.4 M	1,000
Heat Pump (Hybrid) Hot Water	$5.0 M	1,300
Cool Roofs	$3.5 M	580
Geothermal Heat Pumps	$3.0 M	170
Super-efficient Window Upgrades	$3.0 M	1,000
Tankless or On-Demand Hot Water	$2.4 M	1,000
Mini-split Ductless Heat Pumps	$2.3 M	530
Home Energy Monitors	$1.5 M	3,100



Nearly 100 agencies in 27 states are implementing SERC grants.

Illustration by NREL

Who Is Eligible?

SERC Grants are currently being implemented in 27 states. People who have incomes below a certain threshold may qualify for these funds. If you live in any of these states, check with your local weatherization agency or state office to find out if you qualify for SERC funds. The program serves homeowners and renters living in all housing types, including single-family homes, apartments, or mobile homes. Renters must get written permission from the landlord before agencies can perform weatherization upgrades on the home.

Who to Contact?

SERC Grants are an extension of the traditional Weatherization Assistance Program, which serves people in every state and in U.S. territories. For complete details about weatherization programs in your area, contact your local community action agency or state program office. Your telephone directory, utility company, or public assistance office may be able to help you locate the weatherization provider nearest to you. You can also contact DOE to obtain information on your state's weatherization program.

- For more information about SERC, please visit *eere.energy.gov/wip/serc.html.*
- For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, visit *weatherization.energy.gov* or *waptac.org.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

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