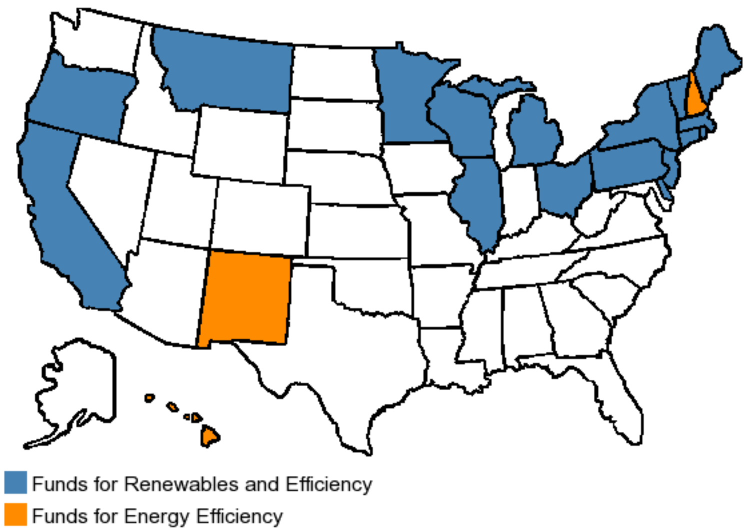
# Public Benefit Funds




Many states have funds, often called ?public benefit funds,? dedicated to supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The funds are collected either through a small charge on the bill of every electric customer or through specified contributions from utilities. The charge ensures that money is available to fund these projects. Publicly managed clean energy funds from twelve of these states have formed the Clean Energy States Alliance to coordinate public benefit fund investments in renewable energy. The Clean Energy States Alliance is composed of funds in California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Wisconsin.

## Michigan

The Low-Income and Energy Efficiency Fund (LIEEF) provides energy assistance to low-income customers through a variety of energy efficiency programs. LIEEF has also begun to fund renewable energy initiatives, including wind turbines, PV systems, anaerobic digesters, and other biomass projects.

## Minnesota

Utilities must invest 1.5% of gross operating revenue in energy efficiency measures.

## New Hampshire

The public benefit fund is authorized to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy, and low-income assistance, but to date, only energy efficiency and low-income assistance have received funds.

## New Mexico

The Efficient Use of Energy Act of 2005 and S.B. 418 allows electric utilities to collect a fee of no more than 1% of the customer's bill, for use on renewable energy, load management, and energy efficiency programs.

## Pennsylvania

The restructuring law guarantees minimum levels of funding for low-income assistance and energy efficiency programs (which can include renewable energy projects). Exact levels of funding vary by utility, and in some cases are higher than the state requirement.

## Texas

Utilities must administer programs to meet an energy savings target.