

## **Highlights from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Package for the Southeast**

On Monday, November 15, President Biden signed H.R. 3684, The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which allocates \$1.2 trillion, including \$550 billion in new spending during FY 2022 through FY 2026, in new investments for all modes of transportation, water, power and energy, environmental remediation, public lands, broadband and resilience. The following summary lists highlights from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Package specific to clean energy and climate for the Southeast region. Federal policymakers are now focused squarely on the Build Back Better Act which if passed would invest an additional \$555 billion in climate-related programs and priorities.

State Energy Programs will have their funding doubled for the next 5 years! And they'll need it to help implement a significant increase in programming. Programming that now includes \$250M for a revolving loan fund focused on delivering residential and commercial energy audits.

A program analogous to the State Energy Program but directed to local governments, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) provides \$550M in funding for a wide range of energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. Larger municipalities receive their funding directly; smaller communities apply for funding through their state energy office.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) will be funded at \$3.5B - almost back to ARRA levels, with a goal to retrofit 700,000 homes! Unlike ARRA however, WAP funding has been authorized until it is expended, so there is more likely to be a manageable disbursement of these funds when compared to the three year-window that Congress authorized last time. Low Income Households Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) received \$0.5B.

Clean Energy for Schools - \$5B for up to 100% of the costs of electric school buses, which will deliver thousands of electric school buses nationwide and \$500M competitive grant program for clean energy for schools.

Clean Energy for Non-Profit Organizations: The "Energy Efficient Materials Pilot Program" (\$50M over five years) provides funding for the use of "energy efficient materials" in NGOs. Southface has been operating the Good Use Program for years, which may provide a template for how this program can be implemented.

A new DOE Office is coming to town: \$21B to support commercialization of new clean energy technologies via a new office of Clean Energy Generation.

The grid will get stronger! Or at least will have some upgrades... \$27B for grid investments at both the distribution and transmission levels.

EVs and Fleet Electrification: \$1B/year EV Formula Grant Program to states - used to build and maintain chargers along designated Federal Highway Administration alternative fueling corridors, plus another \$2.5B in competitive funds. Check out SEEA's webinar for great details and funding access (Recording and Slides). Southeast states are expected to receive the following funding over five years to support the expansion of an EV charging network in the

state: Alabama (\$79M), Arkansas (\$54M), Florida (\$198M), Georgia (\$135M), Mississippi (\$51M), North Carolina (\$109M), South Carolina (\$70M), Tennessee (\$88M), Texas (\$408M), Virginia (\$106M).

Invests the largest ever federal investment in public transit, allotting \$39 billion to modernize transit systems and improve accessibility - helping reduce emissions and air pollution by repairing, upgrading, and modernizing the nation's transit infrastructure. This includes \$5.3 billion to replace thousands of transit vehicles with zero-emission vehicles.

Southeast Ports need to get ready for electrification - Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program awards \$250M in grants to purchase electric ferries or for retrofits and the Port Infrastructure Development Program has \$2.25B to spend through 2036 for port resiliency, electrification, retrofit measures, and sea level rise adaptation.

Workforce funds can be deployed quickly and include energy auditor training (\$40M over five years), building energy codes training (\$225M for five years), trades/installer training for modern building technologies (\$10M in 2022), skills for building certifications (\$10M for 2022), among others.

Funding to support projects at the energy/water nexus, including key programs like the wastewater efficiency grant pilot program, sewer overflow and stormwater reuse municipal grants, clean water infrastructure resiliency program, and clean water state revolving funds.

It's not all about the money! Every state utility commission must consider a regulatory regime enabling demand response and demand flexibility solutions within 2 years - this could be a particular opportunity for state utility commissions in Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

FERC and DOE have been given new authority to designate transmission corridors - FERC may issue permits for interstate transmission upgrades or construction even if states individually deny them - projects like the previously proposed Southern Cross and Plains and Eastern could bring cheap Midwest wind into the Southeast region.

### **Additional Resources:**

[State fact sheets](#) from the White House, [a high level overview](#) from DOE, [the most comprehensive list we've seen](#) from the Princeton REPEAT Project, [this NYTimes article](#) on how funding might trickle down to the states, [blog post](#) from SEEA on BIF provisions re: EE, EVs, and resiliency, and a [blog post on the role of states](#) from Vote Solar on BIF implementation.