Congressional Research Service
Informing the legislative debate since 1914

IN FOCUS

Updated April 4, 2023

DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy FY2024 Appropriations

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is responsible for enabling renewable energy and end-use energy efficiency technology development and implementation. Other activities include issuing grants for home energy efficiency and state planning, establishing minimum energy conservation standards for appliances and equipment, and providing technical support.

EERE collaborates with industry, academia, national laboratories, and others to conduct and support research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities. EERE also manages programs that support state and local governments, tribes, and schools. Further, EERE oversees and supports the research and infrastructure of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and its research and development on technologies for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

EERE Appropriations

EERE receives funding through the annual Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies (E&W) appropriations bill. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328, EERE received $3.46 billion for FY2023, approximately $260 million more than the enacted FY2022 level of $3.20 billion (the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022; P.L. 117-103).

In addition, EERE received funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; P.L. 117-58). IIJA provided a total of $16.26 billion in additional emergency appropriations for EERE, of which $1.945 billion is directed to FY2024 (see **Table 1**). EERE also received $17.96 billion in additional funding through various provisions of P.L. 117-169 (often referred to as the Inflation Reduction Act, or IRA), enacted on August 16, 2022. The IRA funding is available from FY2022 to remain available through FY2026, FY2027, FY2029, or FY2031 depending on the provision.

Executive Branch Actions

For FY2024, the Biden Administration requested $3.83 billion for the EERE organization—10.6% higher than the FY2023 enacted level of $3.46 billion when including programs managed by the Undersecretary for Infrastructure (designated as "S3" in the DOE organization), a position DOE created starting FY2023 and encompassing various programs previously administered with EERE. Of the FY2024 request for EERE, 4.7% was to be reserved for program direction. Including current EERE programs proposed to be managed by S3 rather than within the EERE organization, a total of $4.84 billion was requested, a 40% increase from the FY2023 enacted amount.

Overall, DOE's stated goal for EERE funding is to invest in "programmatic priority areas that are central pillars in lowering the U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) profile." Specific proposed funding increases were aimed at decarbonization activities in the electricity sector, transportation, energy-intensive industries, the carbon footprint of buildings, and energy-related aspects of the agriculture sector especially the energy-water nexus. Other priorities included energy justice efforts under Justice40, an initiative of the Biden Administration in accordance with Executive Order 14008 to prioritize 40% of funding of certain federal investments for disadvantaged communities.

As in FY2023, the FY2024 request proposed realigning funding to reflect new offices, functionally transferring some programs from EERE to S3 including the Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC); Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP); and Office of Federal Energy Management Programs (FEMP). This meant the EERE request did not include funding for certain programs such as Weatherization—within the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program control point—which the FY2024 budget request included in the $705 million request for SCEP. Under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, P.L. 117-328, the proposed offices were separated from the Energy Efficiency control point, but not from EERE.

Legislative Actions

Congress may also be interested in the role of Undersecretary for Infrastructure (i.e., S3) with responsibility for managing the three programs noted above that were appropriated within EERE in FY2023: MESC, SCEP, and FEMP. DOE is proposing to fund those programs within S3 as it had requested in FY2023. Congressional interest in EERE funding could include the large increase in certain program areas. Overall, EERE received large appropriations in the IIJA and IRA in addition to its annual appropriation.

A number of issues arose during the March 23, 2023, hearing of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies. The President's FY2024 budget proposed a 40% increase in EERE compared to smaller increases for other parts of DOE. A Subcommittee Member asked what the impact would be on programs if DOE were to revert to the FY2022 level, which would be a 16% decrease for the EERE organization when not counting MESC, SCEP, and FEMP. Finally, a DOE-proposed rule on efficiency of natural gas cooking products (e.g., gas stoves) has raised concern among some House Appropriations Committee Members.

Table 1. Appropriations: EERE FY2023-FY2024 Appropriations
(in millions of dollars)

	FY2023 IIJA	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 IIJA	FY2024 Request
EERE, Total	*2,221.8*	*3,460.0*	*1,945.0*	*4,841.9*[a]
Sustainable Transportation	**—**	**905.0**	**—**	**1,013.0**
Vehicle Technologies	1,240.0[b]	455.0	1,240.0[b]	526.9
Bioenergy Technologies	—	280.0	—	323.0
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies	200.0	170.0	200.0	163.1
Renewable Energy	**—**	**792.0**	**—**	**1268.7**
Solar Energy	—	318.0	—	378.9
Wind Energy	—	132.0	—	385.0
Water Power	276.8[c]	179.0	—	229.8
Geothermal Technologies	—	118.0	—	216.0
Renewable Energy Grid Integration	—	45.0	—	59.0
Energy Efficiency	**—**	**782.0**	**—**	**983.6**
Advanced Manufacturing	250.0[d]	450.0[e]	250.0[d]	635.7[e]
Building Technologies	255.0[f]	332.0	255.0[f]	347.8
Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains[g]	**—**	**18.0**	**—**	**179.5**[a]
State and Community Energy Programs[h]	**—**	**471.0**	**—**	**705.0**[a]
Federal Energy Management Program	**—**	**43.0**	**—**	**57.0**[a]
Corporate Support[i]	**—**	**449.0**	**—**	**635.2**
Rescissions	**—**	**—**	**—**	**—**

Source: P.L. 117-328, Division D, Joint Explanatory Statement; P.L. 117-58; P.L. 117-169; DOE FY2024 congressional budget justifications.
Notes: EERE = DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. IIJA = Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Amounts may not sum due to rounding.

a. The FY2024 request for the EERE did not include funding for certain programs that the President's budget request proposed to be organized separately from EERE. These programs include the Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC), State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP), and Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP).
b. Of this amount, $1,200 million of funding is being executed in MESC: Battery Materials Recycling Grants and Battery Manufacturing and Recycling Grants.
c. The IIJA water power funding is being executed in the Grid Deployment Office (GDO), separate from the EERE organization.
d. Of this amount $150 million is being executed within MESC.
e. DOE is dividing these annual appropriated funds into two programs: Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies and Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization.
f. Of this amount, $100 million is being carried out in SCEP: Energy Efficiency Improvements and Renewable Improvements at Public School Facilities; $110 million in MESC: Implementation Grants for Industrial Research and Assessment Centers, and Industrial Research and Assessment Centers.
g. The IIJA appropriated $150 million in EERE for manufacturing activities and $110 million for building technology activities in FY2023 that are being executed in MESC.
h. FY2024 funding for the Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program is included within SCEP. The IIJA appropriated $10 million in EERE for building technology activities in FY2023 that are being executed in SCEP.
i. Includes corporate support in the EERE organization and the program direction allocations in the FEMP, SCEP, and MESC organizations.

Martin C. Offutt, Analyst in Energy Policy
Corrie E. Clark, Specialist in Energy Policy

IF12236

Disclaimer