The Department of Commerce provides diverse programs that collectively help improve energy efficiency for homeowners, businesses, public facilities, and low-income residents, and improve access to financing for energy-efficiency upgrades. Commerce supports the development and deployment of clean energy technologies that save energy, reduce costs, and promote Washington State energy independence.

**Improving Energy Efficiency for Low-Income Households**
Commerce supports low-income housing weatherization, reducing energy bills for low-income households. This statewide investment in clean energy and affordable housing leverages dollar-for-dollar private utility funding to create prevailing wage construction jobs, save utility costs, and improve Washington’s energy security.

*Weatherization Program*

**Improving the Efficiency of Public Buildings and Street Lighting**
Commerce provides grants to state agencies, public higher education institutions, and local governments to improve the energy efficiency of public facilities and street lighting, and install solar systems to reduce energy demand and costs. In 2014, Commerce awarded two rounds of grants totaling $22.6 million, leveraging non-state resources and creating hundreds of jobs.

*Energy Efficiency and Solar Grant Program*

**Improving Access to Financing of Energy Efficiency Upgrades**
Commerce helps improve access to the financing of energy-efficient upgrades by funding the development and implementation of on-bill financing models. One such effort by Inland Power & Light finances energy efficiency improvements through the utility, and repays the investment from the bill savings that result from the improvement. Similarly, Craft3 developed an on-bill financing program that serves residential customers of Seattle City Light, and will expand to Clark County in 2015.

*Clean Energy Funds*
Supporting Clean Energy Research
Commerce provides grants to support the widespread use of proven building energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies now inhibited by lack of access to capital; to advance renewable energy technologies by public and private electrical utilities that serve retail customers in the state; and to make Washington more competitive in attracting federal clean energy grants through state matching funds.

Clean Energy Funds

Creating a More Robust Market for Building Efficiency
Commerce develops recommendations for increasing the quality and transparency of building energy-use information, including more robust accounting of energy billing, and commercial building energy benchmarking and disclosure. Energy benchmarking tracks the utility bills of a building over time and compares that building to other similar structures, providing greater understanding of energy consumption and costs.

Reducing the Energy Use of New Buildings
Commerce supports the State Building Code Council in the development of the State Energy Code. By organizing independent third party organizations and individuals, Commerce assures a robust set of proposals will support the statutory goals for advancing the energy code every three years.