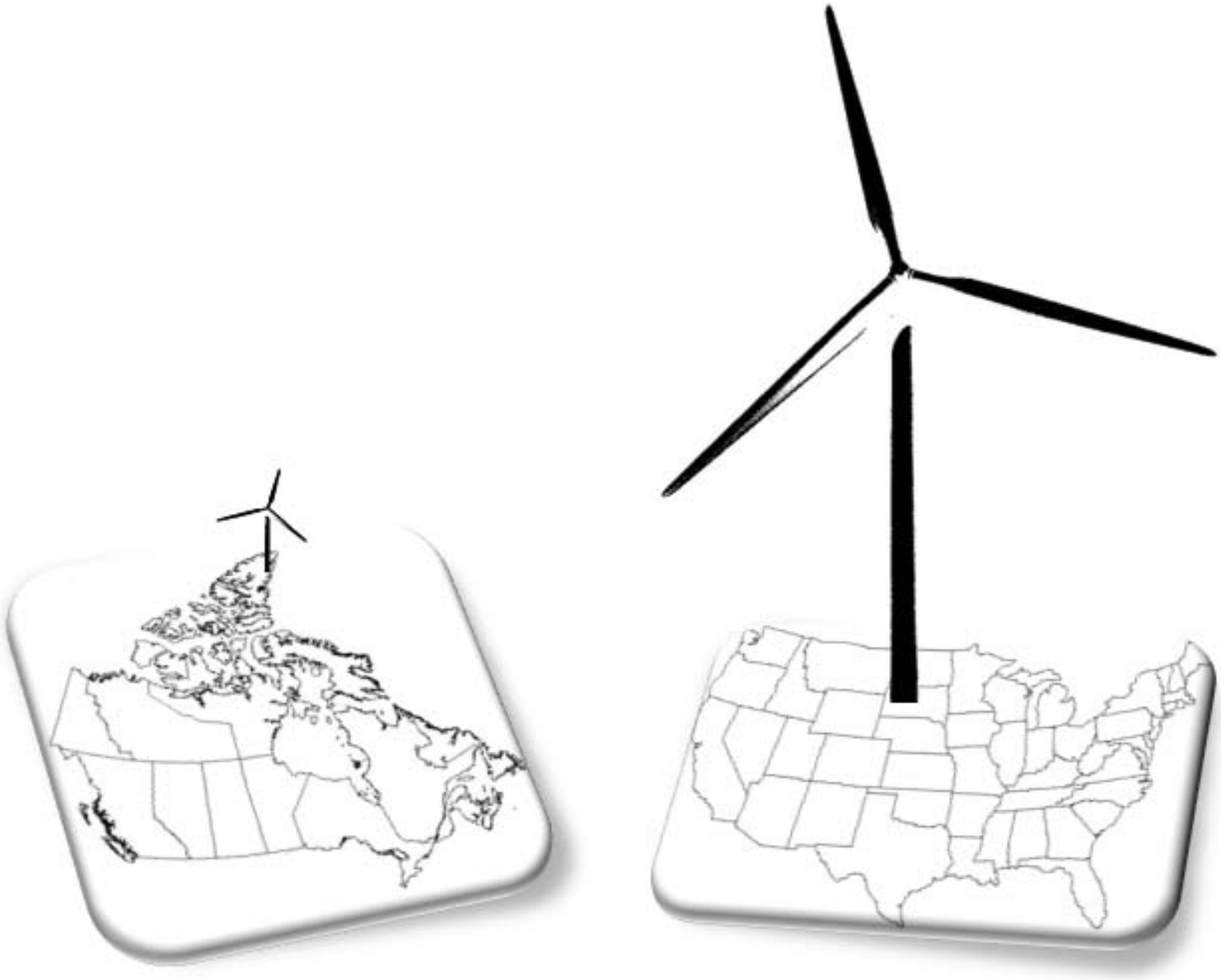
Obama to invest over six times more per capita in renewable energy and energy efficiency than Canada



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Media Backgrounder

February 19, 2009

United States to invest over six times more per capita in renewable energy and energy efficiency than Canada

GATINEAU – President Obama this week signed into law the U.S. economic recovery bill, which includes an investment of over $US 76 billion in renewable energy and energy efficiency technology. This is over six times more than was announced in Canada's recent federal budget on a per capita basis.

The following table illustrates the announced allocation of new funds **over the next two years** in renewable energy and energy efficiency programs.

Program area	U.S. investment ($US billion)	Canadian investment ($CDN billion)	Factor by which U.S. investment exceeds Canada's, per capita*
Building Energy Efficiency ($US billion) • Home energy weatherization ($5.0) • State energy programs$^{\pm}$ ($1.55) • Federal building retrofits ($4.5) • Public housing/Native housing retrofits$^{\alpha}$ ($2.1) • Military building retrofits ($4.3) • Local government block grants ($3.2) • Energy efficient appliance rebate ($0.3) • Medical facilities energy retrofits ($1.0) • Energy conservation bonds ($0.8) • Tax credit for home efficiency improvements ($2.0) • Advanced energy investment credit$^{\Psi}$ ($0.55) **Building Energy Efficiency** ($CDN billion) • ecoENERGY – retrofit homes ($0.3) • Low income housing upgrades$^{\alpha}$ ($0.5)	$25.3	$0.8	4.3
Renewable Energy ($US billion) • State energy programs$^{\pm}$ ($1.55) • "Smart" electricity grid infrastructure ($7.75) • Renewable electricity production tax credit ($8.93) • Renewable energy loan guarantees ($6.0) • Training for renewable energy ($0.5) • Residential energy credits ($0.87) • Clean renewable energy bonds ($0.58) • Advanced energy investment credit$^{\Psi}$ ($0.55) **Renewable Energy** ($CDN billion) • Green Infrastructure Fund$^{\Delta}$ ($0.13) • Clean energy research and pilots$^{\Omega}$ ($0.13)	$26.73	$0.27	13.7

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Transit and vehicle efficiency ($US billion) • Federal Transit Administration ($6.8) • Public transportation discretionary grants ($0.1) • High speed rail capital assistance ($8.0) • National Railroad passenger capital grants ($0.85) • Fixed guideway infrastructure investment ($0.75) • Efficient federal vehicle fleet procurement ($0.3) • Transportation electrification ($0.4) • Advanced battery research ($2.0) • Passenger rail (Amtrak) ($1.3) • Plug-in hybrid vehicle credit ($2.0) **Transit and vehicle efficiency** ($CDN billion) • Green Infrastructure Fund$^{\Delta}$ ($0.13) • Via Rail ($0.41)	$24.5	$0.54	6.2
Total	$76.53	$1.60	6.5

***** Uses an exchange rate of 1.24, and a 9.1-fold population difference between the U.S. and Canada (CIA World Factbook).

$^{\pm}$ Assumes the *State Energy Program*'s $3.6 billion is evenly split between renewables and efficiency.

$^{\Psi}$ Assumes 33% of funds for "renewable energy, energy storage, energy conservation, efficient transmission and distribution of electricity and carbon capture and sequestration" will be allocated to efficiency and an additional 33% to renewables.

$^{\alpha}$ Assumes 50% of low-income retrofits are energy efficiency related for both Canadian and U.S. programs.

$^{\Delta}$ Assumes 33% of $1 billion over 5 years of infrastructure investments into "public transit, sustainable energy and waste management" projects will go to renewable energy, 33% to transit and 33% to waste/water management.

$^{\Omega}$ Assumes 33% of $1 billion over 5 years for "clean energy research development and demonstration projects, including capture and storage" will go to renewable energy.

A two-year time period was selected for this analysis as the Canadian budget focused spending on that timeframe. Two years is the duration generally regarded as relevant for economic stimulus in the face of the current downturn.

While they were not considered in this analysis on renewable energy and energy efficiency, Canada's proportionally larger investments in carbon capture and sequestration technology than the United States would reduce the per capita spending difference from a factor of 6.5 to a factor of over 5.

Although the word *renewable* does not appear in the Canadian budget plan, we have assumed that portions of programs to support "clean" or "sustainable" energy will be used in part to support renewable energy. It remains to be seen whether the federal government will make good on this assumption.

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