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Mayor Johnson joins President Obama in Announcement of \$4B Investment to Upgrade Public and Private Buildings

Sacramento one of only five cities selected for program that will create jobs, bring funding to city

WASHINGTON, DC – Today Mayor Kevin Johnson joined an announcement made by President Obama and former President Bill Clinton to commit nearly \$4 billion in combined federal and private sector energy upgrades to buildings over the next 2 years.

Today's commitments were announced by President Obama and former President Clinton along with Mayor Johnson and other representatives from more than 60 organizations as part of the '[Better Buildings Challenge](#),' a national energy initiative launched by President Barack Obama to catalyze private sector investment in commercial building upgrades and make America's commercial buildings 20 percent more energy efficient by 2020.

With the announcement, Sacramento joins Los Angeles, Seattle, Atlanta and Denver as the first cities tapped by the Obama Administration to participate in the challenge. It is estimated that the plan could create nearly 50,000 jobs nationally.

Under the Better Buildings Initiative, the participating organizations agree on a plan to invest \$2 billion of private capital to upgrade over 1.5 billion square feet of commercial and industrial property in the US. That figure will be matched by the government with an investment of another \$2 billion in energy efficiency upgrades to federal buildings, to be paid for by the savings that those upgrades will provide long term.

"As Mayor of California's Capital, it's a privilege to be one of the first cities in the country to participate in the Better Buildings Challenge. Thanks to our partnership with the Obama Administration, this initiative will strengthen Sacramento's efforts to create jobs, diversify our economy, and demonstrate that good environmental policy is good economic policy," Mayor Johnson said.

The Challenge is part of the Better Buildings Initiative launched in February by President Obama, and is spearheaded by former President Clinton and the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness to support job creation by catalyzing private sector investment in commercial and industrial building energy upgrades to make America's buildings 20 percent more efficient over the next decade, reducing energy costs for American businesses by nearly \$40 billion.

These investments will save billions in energy costs, promote energy independence, and, according to independent estimates, create tens of thousands of jobs in the hard-hit construction sector.

This announcement builds on 14 private sector commitments announced at the Clinton Global Initiative America in June to make energy upgrades across 300 million square feet, and to invest \$500 million in private sector financing in energy efficiency projects.

Last year, commercial buildings consumed roughly 20 percent of all the energy used by the U.S. economy.

Currently, the City of Sacramento has committed to retrofit 12 million square feet or 10% of square footage of its buildings. The Mayor's 'Greenwise' Initiative has made a regional commitment to retrofit 25% of all commercial buildings or 25 million square feet in the 6-county area.

In September, Sacramento joined Miami as the only two cities in the country to receive private investment from the 'Carbon War Room,' an independent non-profit founded by Sir Richard Branson, to privately finance the City's efforts to retrofit commercial properties and office buildings. It is estimated that the \$100 million investment has the potential to stimulate an additional \$530 million in economic activity in the region. It is expected to create 1,500 jobs in the construction industry.

Today's announcement represents another major step in Mayor Johnson's efforts to promote job creation and spur economic development in the green sector. In January 2011, the Mayor's 'Greenwise' initiative released an action plan that includes a goal to double the number of green jobs and attract \$1 billion in investment to Sacramento by 2020.

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