

\$120 million for Renewable Energy

By Star Staff

Puerto Rico will receive more than 120 million dollars in federal funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to approve new bills on renewable energies.

The secretary of Commerce and Economic Development (Spanish acronym DDEC), José Pérez-Rivera announced that the initiative will serve for the creation of more than 2,000 "green" jobs in the Caribbean Island.

"The development of renewable energy bills and the creation of "green" jobs is one of the priorities of this Administration and part of our energy public policy", stated Pérez-Rivera, after clarifying that changes in the sector will help to create new jobs.

The secretary said that this is only the beginning of a series of announcements about new initiatives to

lead Puerto Rico to a development on environment and energy projects.

This past August, the Department of Energy awarded \$212 million in ARRA funds to several states and Puerto Rico to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Under DOE's State Energy Program (SEP), states and territories have proposed statewide plans that prioritize energy savings, create or retain jobs, increase the use of renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The funds will support loan, grant and rebate programs; capital financing programs; education and training efforts; energy audits; building retrofits; building energy code upgrades; coupons for purchases of Energy Star appliances; and partial funding for alternative-fueled vehicles and fueling stations.

The funds are part of the Obama Administration's national strategy to support job growth while



making a historic down payment on clean energy. The Recovery Act appropriated \$3.1 billion to the states.

The energy Program is giving priority to achieving national goals of energy independence while helping to stimulate local economies. For the 10 states and Puerto Rico, the new funds represent a portion of the State

Energy Program funds available to them under the Recovery Act, following an initial 10% of the funds that were awarded to support planning activities. The remainder of the funds will be released when they meet the reporting, oversight and accountability milestones required by the Recovery Act.