Vermont Congressman Peter Welch says he's pleased with the inclusion in President Obama's proposed budget of two items relating to energy efficiency in buildings.

The budget proposal unveiled yesterday includes $1.8 billion dollars for the Home Star program. Welch says that program will create jobs, reduce carbon emissions and save homeowners money.

The president's budget also includes $2 billion dollars for the Better Buildings program, which will promote energy efficiency in office, commercial and industrial buildings.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that in 2010, commercial buildings used about a fifth of all the energy consumed by the U.S. economy.