

ENERGY SCIENCES COALITION

Strong Support for the DOE Office of Science is Critical to the Nation

DOE Plays a Critical Role in Advancing U.S. Science

DOE is the leading source of federal funds and facilities for research in the physical sciences, providing 42 percent of the federal investment in these disciplines. In subfields such as high-energy and nuclear physics, nuclear medicine, heavy-element chemistry, plasma physics and magnetic fusion and catalysis, DOE is the primary government sponsor. DOE also ranks high among federal agencies in overall support for research in computer science and engineering, and sponsors significant research and user facilities for the life and environmental sciences. DOE and its predecessor agencies have supported more than 65 Nobel laureates.

DOE and Its User Facilities are a Unique Scientific Resource

DOE's significant investment in major user facilities located at universities and national laboratories sets it apart from other research agencies. These facilities include large particle accelerators, experimental reactors, high-precision instruments, synchrotrons, massively parallel computers and high-resolution microscopes. More than 19,000 researchers use DOE's scientific facilities every year, nearly half of who are university faculty members and students. Were it not for DOE, these vital scientific facilities would not exist in the U.S.

DOE-Funded Research is Advancing Scientific Frontiers and Improving Our Quality of Life

Recent advances funded by the DOE Office of Science include the Nobel Prize-winning discovery of a new form of carbon, non-invasive detection of cancers and other diseases, improved computer models for understanding global climate change and new insights into the fundamental nature of matter and energy. The DOE Office of Science – not the National Institutes of Health – was the first federal agency to fund the Human Genome Project.

DOE Provides Crucial Support for University Research and Students

DOE directly supports the research of about 23,500 PhDs, postdocs and graduate students. Faculty and students also benefit substantially from their participation in research performed at the Department of Energy's national laboratories. DOE-funded research and education play a key role in strengthening the nation's scientific knowledge base and preparing the next generation of scientists and engineers.