

Steven Chu – Secretary of Energy

Steven Chu was born in 1948. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester, and a doctorate from UC Berkeley.

Chu worked at Bell Laboratories for nine years, where he served as the head of the quantum electronics research department. He also served two separate stints as the chair of the physics department at Stanford University, first from 1990-93 and again from 1999-2001.

In 1997, Chu was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics for developing methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light. Working with two other scientists, he was able to cool atoms to minus-273 degrees Celsius.

In 2004, while a professor of physics and molecular biology at UC Berkeley, Chu was named director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the oldest national laboratory under the auspices of the Department of Energy. Supervising a staff of 4,000 employees with an operating budget of \$650 million, Chu has directed intensive efforts to study biofuels and solar energy technology.

Chu has long been an advocate of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing new methods to combat global warming. According to an official profile, he has "guided Berkeley Lab on a new mission to become the world leader in alternative and renewable energy research, particularly the development of carbon-neutral sources of energy.

Sources:

H. Josef Hebert. *Energy Secretary Pick Argues for New Fuel Sources*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, December 10, 2008.

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. *About the Director: Steven Chu, Sixth Director of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory*. Retrieved on December 11, 2008, from <http://www.lbl.gov/Publications/Director/>.