

America 21st century energy landscape presents needs that are greater than ever before. We face new challenges to reduce dependence on imported oil; to improve the environment; and to make clean, sustainable and affordable energy alternatives available to businesses and agricultural producers.

USDA Rural Development is helping to lead the way in the agriculture sector finding energy solutions in our fields and helping rural residents and communities access renewable energy systems and use energy more efficiently.

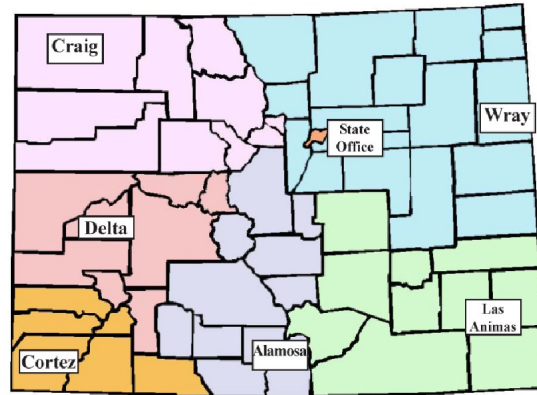
USDA Rural Development provides funding opportunities in the form of payments, grants, loans, and loan guarantees, for the development and commercialization of renewable energy sources including wind, solar, geothermal, hydrogen, ocean waves, hydroelectric, biomass, and biofuel (ethanol, biodiesel, etc.) to change the way people power their homes, businesses, and industries.

By making renewable energy sources commercially viable, USDA Rural Development is also creating sustainable opportunities for wealth, new jobs, and increased economic activity in rural America.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, OCR, Washington D.C. 20250-9410.

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Rural Energy for America Program



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Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)

The REAP program provides loan guarantees and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements.

Rural small businesses must meet the definition of a small business according to SBA small business size standards. A private entity including a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, cooperative and electric utility are eligible applicants. All other non-profit organizations and public bodies are not eligible applicants.

Agricultural producers must directly engage in production of agricultural products and at least 50% of gross income must be from the agriculture business.

Renewable energy systems include those that generate energy from wind, the sun, biomass, geothermal sources, or that produce hydrogen from biomass or water using renewable energy, and ocean and hydroelectric source technologies. The minimum project

size for a renewable energy project is \$10,000



Energy-efficiency projects typically involve installing or upgrading equipment to significantly reduce energy use. Energy audits and feasibility studies are also eligible for assistance. Eligible energy efficiency improvement projects include improvements to a facility, building, or process that reduces energy consumption, such as retrofitting, lighting, insulation, and purchasing or replacing equipment and motors with more efficient units.



Projects must replace an existing item/object. The minimum project size for an energy efficiency project is \$6,000. Projects cannot involve residential use. Project purchases incurred prior to submitting an application are not eligible.

Eligible applicants for energy audits include State, tribe, or local governments; land-grant colleges and universities; rural electric cooperatives; and public power entities. Eligible applicants for feasibility studies include rural small businesses and agricultural producers

Feasibility studies for renewable energy systems are eligible for funding. The maximum grant amount is \$50,000 or no more than 25% of the eligible project costs.

All energy projects:

- the system must be located in a rural area or community of less than 50,000 persons,
- must be technically feasible,
- meet environmental requirements, and
- must be owned by the applicant.

How much assistance can be provided through this program?

Grant – 25% of total eligible costs		
Guaranteed loan – up to 75% of total eligible costs		
	Renewable Energy	Energy Efficiency
Minimum grant	\$2,500	\$1,500
Maximum grant	\$500,000	\$250,000
Minimum Guaranteed Loan	\$5,000	\$5,000
Maximum Guaranteed Loan	\$25,000,000	\$25,000,000