

Contact Information

Office Coverage Areas:

<p>Scottsbluff Area Office—Marla Marx (308) 632-2195 Ext. 1132</p>
<p>Norfolk Area Office—Bill Sheppard (402) 371-5350 Ext. 1004</p>
<p>Kearney Area Office—Kelley Messenger (308) 237-3118 Ext. 4</p>

Lincoln State Office—Deb Yocum
402-437-5554



Committed to the future of rural communities.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, STOP 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992, (800) 877-8339 (TDD), (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 Spanish Federal-relay).

Application templates are available from the Energy links on our web site at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/NEHome.html>

View Rural Development’s National Office web site for additional tools:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/Energy.html>

Committed to the Future Of Rural Communities

USDA Rural Development works each day to help increase economic opportunities and to improve the quality of life for rural Nebraskans.

Rural Development programs assist individuals and families in finding affordable homes and apartments in which to live; help businesses to create economic opportunities and jobs for workers; and allow communities to build essential infrastructure and buildings to offer valuable services to local citizens.

Rural Development is making a positive difference in America, ensuring rural communities are a healthy, safe, and prosperous place to live and work.

**USDA Rural Development State Office
Maxine Moul, State Director**

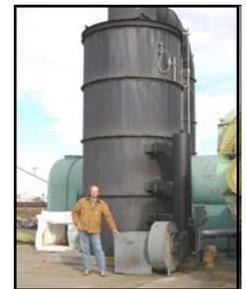
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Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)



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What is the purpose of REAP?

REAP is designed to increase energy efficiencies and stimulate the development of renewable energy systems in rural America.

Who is eligible?

- Agricultural producers (Must be actively engaged in ag production & 50% or more of gross income must be derived from ag operations)
 - Rural small businesses (Majority of income generated in rural area & meets Small Business Size standards found at: <http://www.sba.gov/content/table-small-business-size-standards/>)
- [Eligible for Energy Audit/Renewable Energy Development Assistance program ONLY]**
- Units of State, Tribal or local government Including: instrumentalities, resource conservation and developments (RC&Ds), and water districts.
 - Land-grant college, universities, or institutions of higher education
 - Rural electric cooperatives
 - Public power entities

How may the funds be used?

- Installing renewable energy systems.
- Making energy efficiency improvements within the business operation.
- Complete a feasibility study for a renewable energy system.
- Completing energy audits and providing renewable energy development assistance.
- Residential uses not eligible.

Available funding and terms?

REAP Facility Financing

- Grant and guaranteed loan funds are available.
- Maximum guaranteed loan is \$25,000,000 and minimum is \$5,000.
- Loan guarantees are up to 85 percent.
- Grants are up to 25 percent of the eligible costs.
- Renewable energy grants may be for \$2,500 minimum and \$500,000 maximum.
- Energy efficiency grants may be for \$1,500 minimum and \$250,000 maximum.

REAP Feasibility Study

- Grant up to 25 percent of eligible cost.
- Maximum of \$50,000.

REAP Energy Audit/Renewable Energy Development Assistance

- Grants up to \$100,000.
- Energy audit requests require ultimate recipient to pay 25 percent of audit cost.

Renewable energy funds can be used for?

- Flexible Fuel Pumps and associated infrastructure.
- Anaerobic Digesters
 - Converting livestock wastes into methane based renewable energy. Farmers and ranchers looking to control odor or expand their livestock operations may wish to explore this option.
- Biomass/Bioenergy
 - Converting corn to ethanol, soybeans to biodiesel, wood chips, stover or corn into energy for heat.
- Solar panels
 - Install solar panels as a way to heat green houses or other facilities. Solar PV & solar thermal Applications are eligible.
- Wind turbines
 - Utilizing wind resources by installing turbines, both small and large, provide opportunities for on farm or commercial scale applications.
- Geothermal
 - Tapping into the earth's geothermal resources provides opportunities for businesses to obtain cost effective renewable energy.
- Hydrogen
 - Hydrogen powered electric generation has potential.

Energy efficiency improvement funds can be used for?

- Energy efficiency applications may be submitted for a variety of projects. An energy audit is required in order to show energy savings. Examples of project uses for farmers and businesses include:
- Replace lighting or refrigeration systems in commercial buildings.

- Install HVAC equipment.
- Retrofitting
- Replacement of inefficient windows and doors.
- Adding insulation

Project uses for farmers and ranchers include:

- Conversion of irrigation systems to more efficient units including: new pumps, motors, gear heads or converting from gravity flow to low pressure pivots or to sub-surface drip irrigation.
- Energy efficiency improvements to grain dryers or shop buildings.

*Funding only applies to similar size facilities and equipment only, not expanded capacity.

Feasibility study funds can be used for?

- Exploring the feasibility of a renewable energy system.

Energy audit/rural energy development assistance funds may be used for?

- Conducting and promoting energy audits.
- Conducting and promoting renewable energy development assistance.

How do I apply?

Contact your local Rural Development office to discuss your eligibility as an applicant, the project's eligibility, and to receive an application packet.

- A technical report is required and is an important component of each REAP facility financing application. Work closely with your system installer or contractor to complete the technical report in detail.
- Submit your application as early as possible to your local Rural Development office so the environmental assessment and a review of your application for completeness can be completed. We will advise you if anything is missing.
- Once a complete application has been submitted to Rural Development, you may commission your project with no funding guarantee.
- Applications are accepted at any time. A Notice of Funds Availability will be published in the Federal Register with specific funding cycle information. It will be posted to our web site as soon as it is published.