

Agricultural Producers: Energy Costs Getting You Down?

Grants for making **Energy Efficiency Improvements** and installing **Renewable Energy Systems** are available through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) which is provided by the USDA-Rural Development office. The grant funds may be used to pay 50% of the eligible project costs, with maximum grant request of \$500,000 for Energy Efficiency Improvements and \$1,000,000 for Renewable Energy Systems.

Eligible **Energy Efficiency Improvements** are “any improvements to a facility, building or process that reduces energy consumption”.

For **Poultry Producers**, eligible improvements might include any work to make the houses tighter and better insulated (walls, doors, ceilings), high efficiency brooders (radiant, direct-spark or tube), lighting, computer controllers, vent doors, curtain improvements (side wall, inlet, brood, baffle), interior stir fans, exhaust fan replacement with more efficient fans, etc. So, eligible improvements include just about any upgrades to a poultry house except feed and water systems and generators.

For **other agricultural producers**, eligible Energy Efficiency Improvements may include more efficient systems or system components for pumping, commodity handling, drying, heating, cooling, lighting, insulation, computer controllers, etc. Ag tillage equipment, used equipment, and vehicles are not eligible.

Eligible **Renewable Energy Systems** must produce usable energy from a renewable energy source. These may include biomass, methane digester, solar, wind, geothermal, gasification, hydroelectric, etc.

Only costs of eligible improvements purchased and installed after the date of your complete application being received by USDA are eligible for grant reimbursement.

Chances for getting approved for funding are excellent, close to 100%, however, applications go through a competitive process and final approval is based on how your application competes against others in your state, so approval is not guaranteed. Final word of funding status may not be received until several months after submitting your application. However, **you can proceed with your work as soon as the application is sent to USDA**, so there will be no hold-up for retrofits that have to be done promptly.

For more information and for assistance with the grant application process, contact:

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We have assisted more than 600 agricultural producers and rural small businesses in 10 states to secure grants in excess of \$10 million for energy efficiency improvements in 2003-2022.

The typical application process takes approximately 10 days.
You have 2 years to finish the improvements after the application is approved.
Applications are accepted year-round, but deadlines are
June 30, September 30, December 31, and March 31.