



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Energy for America Program Grants

Purpose

The Rural Energy for America Program is intended to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy development for rural small businesses and agricultural producers. The grant will not exceed 25% of the total eligible project costs.

Combined guaranteed loan and grant packages cannot exceed 75% of the total project costs.

Residential construction or improvements are not eligible for this assistance.

Eligible Applicants

An applicant must be a rural small business or an agricultural producer.

- The size requirement for a small business is defined by SBA at the following web-site: www.sba.gov/size/summary-what.html.
- An agricultural producer is defined as an individual or legal entity which receives 50% or more of their gross income from agricultural.
- Applicant must have a demonstrated financial need for the grant.

Eligible Areas

The project must be in a rural area or in an incorporated community under 50,000 population and not adjacent to an urban area. Project location eligibility can be found at:

<http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do>

Project Eligibility

The grant funds must be used to purchase a renewable energy system or to make energy efficiency improvements to an existing facility.

An eligible project must:

- be for pre-commercial or commercially available technology. (Not intended for research and development)
- have technical merit;
- be in a rural area;
- be owned and controlled by the applicant;
- have sources of revenue that are sufficient to provide for operation, management, maintenance, and debt service of the project.
- Renewable energy projects will use one of the following renewable resources:
 - Wind
 - Solar
 - Biomass
 - Anaerobic Digestion
 - Geothermal.
 - Hydrogen derived from a renewable energy source.

Eligible Project Costs

The following items are considered to be eligible project costs as long as these costs are an integral part of the renewable energy system or energy efficiency improvement:

- 1) Post-application purchase and installation of equipment.(new or refurbished/remanufactured)
- 2) Post-application construction or improvements.
- 3) Energy audits or assessments.
- 4) Permit and license fees.
- 5) Professional service fees, except for application preparation.
- 6) Feasibility studies and technical reports.
- 7) Business plans.
- 8) Retrofitting.
- 9) Construction of a new energy efficient facility only when the facility is used for the same purpose, is approximately the same size and based upon the energy audit will provide more energy savings than improving an existing facility. Only costs identified in the energy audit for energy efficiency improvement are allowed.

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender”. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

Ineligible Grant Purposes

Debt refinancing; lines of credit; agricultural tillage equipment; used equipment; vehicles; and application preparation fees.

Grant Request Limits

- Renewable energy systems:
 - Maximum grant request is \$500,000.
 - Minimum grant request is \$2,500.
- Energy efficiency improvements:
 - Maximum grant request is \$250,000.
 - Minimum grant request is \$1,500.

Additional Information

Although applications are currently not being accepted for this program, now is the time to begin the technical reports of the project which is intended to be constructed.

Please contact the following individuals to further discuss your proposed project:

Randy Monhemius Business Program Specialist Rural Development 200 North High Street, Room 507 Columbus, OH 43215 614/255-2424 Randy.Monhemius@oh.usda.gov	Jim Cogan Business & Cooperative Programs Director Rural Development 200 North High Street, Room 507 Columbus, OH 43215 614/255-2420 Jim.Cogan@oh.usda.gov
--	---

Website:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html>

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender”. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).