



Grant Spotlight: Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

The Rural Energy for America Program, through U.S. Department of Agriculture, provides loans and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or energy efficiency improvements.

Awards

Awards are grants or long-term loans. Renewable energy system grants are \$2,500 to \$1 million. Energy efficiency grants are \$1,500 to \$500,000.

- Loans can provide up to 75% of total eligible project costs.
- Grants can provide up to 50% of total eligible project costs.
- Combined grant and loan guarantee funding can provide up to 75% of total eligible project costs.

Eligible Applicants

- Agricultural producers
- Small businesses in areas with populations of fewer than 50,000
 - Private for-profit entity
 - Tribal corporation or business
 - Electric utility
 - Cooperative

Deadlines

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025: Dec. 31, 2024 and March 31, 2025

FY 2026: Sept. 30 and Dec. 31, 2025, and March 31, 2026

FY 2027: Sept. 20 and Dec. 31, 2026, and March 31, 2027

Match Requirements

- Grants require a minimum 50% match
- Loans require a minimum 25% match and repayment of the loan
- Combined grant and loan awards require a minimum 25% match and repayment of the loan

Eligible Projects

Funds can be used for the purchase and installation of renewable energy systems and the construction of energy efficiency improvements such as:

- Biomass: biodiesel and ethanol, anaerobic digesters, and solid fuels
- Geothermal for electric generation or direct use
- Hydropower below 30 megawatts
- Hydrogen
- Small and large wind generation
- Small and large solar generation
- Ocean (tidal, current, thermal) generation
- High-efficiency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC)
- Insulation
- Lighting
- Cooling or refrigeration units
- Doors and windows
- Electric, solar, or gravity pumps for sprinkler pivots
- Switching from a diesel to electric irrigation motor
- Replacement of energy-inefficient equipment

Tips

- All projects require an environmental review prior to award or construction.
- You are encouraged to contact your USDA RD State Energy Coordinator well in advance of the application deadline to discuss your project.

Resources



[Program Page - USDA](#)



[USDA Rural Development State Offices](#)



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