



Committed to the future of rural communities

Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Grants

Purpose

The Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Improvements Grants provide financial assistance to purchase and install renewable energy systems and energy efficient improvements in rural areas.

Applicant Eligibility

- Must be an agricultural producer or rural small business.
- Citizens of the US or reside in the US after being legally admitted.
- At least 51% US ownership or reside in the US after being legally admitted.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Previously funded projects must be completed prior to consideration for additional funding.

Ineligible Applicants:

- Outstanding Judgment obtained by the US in a Federal Court
- Delinquent on the payment of Federal Income taxes
- Delinquent on a Federal debt
- Debarred from receiving Federal assistance.

Eligible Projects:

- Purchase a renewable energy system
- Make energy efficiency improvements
- Pre-commercial or commercially available and replicable technology.
- Have technical merit
- Located in a rural area (The small business and project must be located in a rural area; however, the business headquarters may be located in either a rural or non-rural area.)
- Must be the owner of the project and control the revenues and expenses of the project, including operation and maintenance.
- Sites must be controlled by the agricultural producer or small business for the financing term.
- Sources of revenue sufficient to provide for the operation, management, maintenance and debt service for the life of the project.

Grant funds will not exceed 25 percent of total eligible project costs. Other Federal grant funds and applicant in-kind contributions cannot be used to meet the matching requirement. Third-party, in-kind contributions are limited to 10% of the matching fund requirement.

Passive third-party equity contributions are acceptable for renewable energy system projects, provided the applicant meets the applicant eligibility requirements.

Maximum and Minimum Grant Amounts

Renewable Energy Request

\$2,500 - \$500,000

Energy Efficiency Request

\$1,500 - \$250,000

Maximum amount to one individual or entity per Federal Fiscal Year.

\$750,000

Applications

- Semi-Annual Notification of Funds Availability (NOFA) published in the Federal Register.
- Applications compete nationally for funds.
- Contact any USDA-Rural Development State Office for established application deadlines and application assistance.
- Anticipated Application Deadlines:
March 31, 2008 for the first funding round
May 30, 2008 for the final funding round

Selection Factors

- Quantity of energy replaced, produced or saved.
- Environmental benefits
- Commercial availability
- Technical merit score
 1. Qualifications of project team
 2. Agreements and permits
 3. Energy or resource assessment
 4. Design and engineering
 5. Project development schedule
 6. Project economic assessment
 7. Equipment procurement

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

Selection Factors Continued:

8. Equipment installation
 9. Operation and Maintenance
 10. Dismantling and disposal of project components
- Readiness
 - Small agricultural producer/very small business
 - Simplified application/low cost project
 - Previous grantees and borrowers
 - Return on investment

Other Considerations

- Equal employment opportunity
- Equal opportunity and nondiscrimination
- Civil rights compliance
- Environmental analysis

Applicants should consider the potential environmental impacts of their respective applications at the earliest planning stages and develop projects that minimize the potential to adversely impact the environment. USDA-Rural Development is also required to assess the environmental impact of its decision to fund a project and will require that the application provide sufficient information for the completion of such assessments.

In addition, all applicants must be assigned a Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System number (DUNS). Organizations can receive a DUNS number at no cost by calling the toll-free DUNS number request line, 1-866-705-5711, or by going online at http://www.dnb.com/US/duns_update/index.html

For More Information

Contact the USDA - Rural Development Office website at www.rurdev.usda.gov or visit the following Iowa website for forms

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia/rbcs_RE-EE_grants.html

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



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