



Committed to the future of rural communities.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS

### Quick Reference Fact Sheet

The Renewable Energy Program offers Guaranteed Loans, Grants and combination Grant/Guaranteed Loans to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses make energy efficiency improvements in rural areas.

#### Eligibility

- 1 An **agricultural producer** (individual or entity) **directly** engaged in the production of agricultural products and obtains at least 50% of their gross income from their agriculture business.
- 2 A **rural small business** – an entity is considered a small business in accordance with the Small Business Administration's (SBA) small business size standards (by NAICS codes). SBA small size standards can be found at <http://www.sba.gov/size/index.html>  
 ⇒ A private entity including a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, and a cooperative (including a cooperative qualified under section 501(c) (12) of the Internal Revenue Code.  
 ⇒ An electric utility, including a Tribal or governmental electric utility that provides service to rural consumers on a cost-of-service basis **without** support from public funds or subsidy from the Government authority establishing the district, provided such utilities meet SBA's definition of small business. These entities must operate independent of direct Government control.

With the exception of the entities described above, all other non-profit organizations and public entities are **excluded**.

For grant projects with total **eligible** costs **exceeding \$200,000**, agricultural producers and rural small businesses with a demonstrated financial need.

For grant projects with total **eligible** costs of **\$200,000 or less**, applicants must provide a statement certifying their financial need.

#### Eligible Purpose

- Project must be for the purchase of a renewable energy system.
- Project must be for a pre-commercial or

commercially available, and replicable technology.

- Project must have technical merit.
- Project must be located in a rural area (outside any 50,000+ population city and its urbanized periphery).
- Applicant must be the owner of the project.
- Sites must be controlled by the applicant.
- Satisfactory sources of revenue in an amount sufficient to provide for the operation, management, maintenance, and debt service of the project must be available for the life of the project.

#### Renewable Energy Project Examples

- Bio-energy,
  - Anaerobic Digester,
- Geothermal – electric generation,
- Geothermal – direct use,
- Hydrogen,
- Small and Large Wind,
- Small and Large Solar

#### Application Process

Two copies of your application are to be submitted to the USDA Rural Development State Office where your project is located. Separate applications must be submitted for renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement projects. **Only one application** per each type of project may be submitted per year. While applications are accepted at any time, they may only be considered for funding on a quarterly basis. Selection is based on a nation-wide competition for funds. To qualify for consideration for funding, an applications must meet the application requirements, technical requirements and environmental requirements.

On the web at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/fl)

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Please read the NOSA through and contact the State Office early in the application process for assistance and guidance. Simplified or reduced applications may be accepted for applicants with total eligible project costs under a specified threshold. Applications are to be submitted to the State Office by US Postal Service or courier delivery service at:

**Mr. Joseph M. Mueller,**  
**B&C Programs Director**  
**USDA, Rural Development**  
**4440 NW 25th Place**  
**PO Box 147010**  
**Gainesville, FL 32614**  
**Phone: (352) 338-3482**

#### How much assistance is available?

Minimum grant	\$2,500
Maximum grant	\$500,000
<b>Maximum grant per applicant per fiscal year \$750,000*</b> (cannot exceed 25% of total eligible project costs) <i>*If project is a combination of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency applications.</i>	
Minimum guaranteed loan	\$5,000
Maximum guaranteed loan	\$10,000,000
<b>Minimum grant portion of the combined funding request</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>Maximum combination grant/guaranteed loan \$10,000,000*</b> (shall not exceed 50% of total eligible project costs) <i>*If project is a combination of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency applications.</i>	
Services of a Professional Engineer required for technical report?	Projects with total eligible costs >\$400,000
Business Level Feasibility Study by independent consultant required?	Projects with total eligible costs >\$200,00
Technical Report required?	YES

#### Application Guidelines

	Grant	Guaranteed Loan	Combination Grant & Guaranteed Loan
Who is the applicant?	Agricultural producer or rural small business	A lender is the applicant seeking a guarantee on a loan to an agricultural producer or a rural small business	<b>2 applications are needed.</b> Grant application is from the agricultural producer or the rural small business. Lender submits application for the
What are eligible costs?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Post application purchase and installation of equipment, except agricultural tillage equipment, used equipment and vehicles.</li> <li>2. Post application construction or project improvements, except residential</li> <li>3. Energy audits or assessments</li> <li>4. Permit and license fees</li> <li>5. Professional service fees, except for application preparation.</li> <li>6. Feasibility studies and technical reports</li> <li>7. Business Plans</li> <li>8. Retrofitting</li> <li>9. Limited construction directly pertaining to eligible project costs</li> </ol>	The same eligible costs as listed for a grant, with the addition of:  10. Working Capital 11. Land Acquisition	Only the guaranteed portion can be used for working capital or land acquisition.

**USDA Rural Development 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, DC 20250-9410  
 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD)