



Rural Energy Programs

Renewable Energy

USDA Rural Development’s renewable energy programs support wind, solar, biomass, biofuels, micro-hydro, geothermal, ocean, & anaerobic digester projects.

☞ REAP Renewable Energy Generation Grants (Rural Energy for America Program)

Renewable energy generating facilities – emphasis on off-the-shelf technologies

The REAP program provides matching grants to rural small businesses & agricultural producers for the purchase & installation of renewable energy generation systems in rural areas. Grants are limited to 25% of the project cost or \$500,000 – whichever is less. Grants are awarded via a national competition based on merit.

<http://reap.ruraloregon.biz>

☞ REAP Renewable Energy Guaranteed Loans (Rural Energy for America Program)

For lenders financing renewable energy generating facilities

Same as the REAP grant program above, but provides 85-60% loan guarantees to commercial lenders financing such projects. Loans up to \$25 million can be guaranteed. Combination grant + guaranteed loan assistance cannot exceed 75% of total project cost. <http://reap.ruraloregon.biz>

☞ Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)

Value-added ventures that increase the revenue of commodity producers

The VAPG program provides 50%-matching grants to farmers, ranchers, foresters & fishermen for either planning or working capital to implement value-added ventures – including processing commodities into fuel or energy or for on-farm renewable energy generation. The goal of the program is to increase the grower’s share of revenue from the commodities they produce. Grants up to \$100,000 for planning and \$300,000 for working capital are possible. Grants are awarded via a national competition based on merit. <http://vapg.ruraloregon.biz>

☞ Section 9008 Biomass Research & Development Initiative (\$9008)

Biomass-based renewable energy– emphasis on cellulosic ethanol

The §9008 program provides grants to national laboratories, research agencies, universities, nonprofits, and private sector entities for research & demonstration projects to advance biomass-based fuels. Biomass includes agricultural crops, wood & wood waste, and municipal waste. Grants are limited to \$1 million and cannot exceed 80% on R&D and 50% on demonstration projects. Grants are awarded via a national competition based on merit.

www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/9008.htm

Energy Efficiency

☞ REAP Energy Efficiency Grants (Rural Energy for America Program)

Energy efficiency measures – e.g., lighting, heating, cooling, insulation, & pump improvements

The REAP program provides matching grants to rural small businesses & agricultural producers to make energy efficiency improvements to their facilities. Grants are limited to 25% of the project cost or \$250,000 – whichever is less. Grants are awarded via a national competition based on merit. <http://reap.ruraloregon.biz>

Rural Business & Community Activities

USDA Rural Development has a number of community facility and economic development financing programs – providing guaranteed loans, direct loans, and grants – that support general business & community projects, including those with an energy component. www.rurdev.usda.gov/or

More information at: <http://energy.ruraloregon.biz> or contact:

Rural Energy Coordinator	Pendleton	Don Hollis	541-278-8049 x129	don.hollis@or.usda.gov
VAPG Coordinator	Portland	Martin Zone	503-414-3361	martin.zone@or.usda.gov
Business Program Director	Portland	Jeff Deiss	503-414-3367	jeff.deiss@or.usda.gov