

# PRESS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:** Maril Alsup Stockwell  
(413)253-4314  
maril.stockwell@ma.usda.gov

## **USDA Seeks Applications for Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Loans and Grants**

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for grants and loan guarantees for farmers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems, make energy efficiency improvements, or conduct feasibility studies. The funds are administered through Rural Development's Rural Energy for American Program.

The deadline for applications is July 31. Applications can be sent to Chuck Dubuc, USDA Rural Development, 451 West St., Suite 2, Amherst, MA 01002. Electronic applications may be submitted through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

Loan guarantees and grants are available to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. The maximum grant for renewable energy systems is 25 percent of eligible project costs, not to exceed \$500,000. Energy efficiency improvement projects are eligible for up to 25 percent of eligible project costs, not to exceed \$250,000. The maximum loan guarantee is 75 percent of eligible project costs, not to exceed \$25 million. Combination loan guarantees and grants are also available. Feasibility studies now also qualify for grants under the Rural Energy for America Program.

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