



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
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Cliff Kumm, Program Support Manager
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USDA Rural Development, Beatrice, Nebraska (402) 223-3125

**\$23 Million Available for New and Improved Energy Systems
Via USDA Rural Development**

Lincoln, Nebraska, April 18, 2003--A Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), published in the April 8, 2003 Federal Register, announced the availability of \$23 million in grant funds for Renewable Energy or Energy Efficiency Projects through USDA Rural Development. These grant funds will be competed for nationally by small businesses in communities of 50,000 population or less and by farmers and ranchers.

Applicants must be agricultural producers or rural small businesses, U.S. citizens or legal residents, and have demonstrated a financial need.

Eligible for funding are Renewable Energy System projects such as wind, solar, biomass, biogas, and geothermal. Funding is also available for Energy Efficiency Improvement projects such as improvements to HVAC systems, insulation, refrigeration, lighting, pumping systems, air systems, motor systems, irrigation efficiency improvements, etc.

Grants are at hand for commercially available or pre-commercially available technologies for up to 25% of eligible project costs. Renewable Energy System requests can be considered for a minimum grant of \$10,000 and maximum of \$500,000. Energy Efficiency Improvement grants will have a minimum of \$10,000 and maximum of \$250,000. Separate applications can be considered for Renewable Energy Projects and/or Energy Efficiency Improvement proposals.

Informational meetings regarding the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program have been scheduled on April 30th in West Point, NE beginning at 10:30 A.M. in the County Court House meeting room; April 30th in Ord, NE starting at 7:00 P.M. in the Loup Basin RC&D meeting room, 801 S St., Suite 2 (located on the Valley County fairgrounds, East Highway 11); May 1st in North Platte, NE beginning at 10:30 A.M. in the Extension Service conference room, 115 W. 4th; May 1st in Scottsbluff, NE starting at 7:00 P.M. Mountain Time at the Extension Service, Bluestem Room 4502 Avenue I; and May 5th in Lincoln, NE beginning at 1:30 P.M. in the UNL East Campus Union, Room (to be announced).

Applications for these grant funds must be postmarked no later than June 6, 2003. Complete application information may be obtained from Cliff Kumm or Deb Yocum at USDA Rural Development, 201 N. 25th Beatrice, NE 68310, and Phone (402) 223-3125 ext. 4.



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