



Rural Development – Oregon

Business & Cooperative Programs

www.RuralOregon.biz

or

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

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Rural Energy Programs – for rural businesses and farmers & ranchers

USDA Rural Development's Business & Cooperative Programs can support private rural businesses and farmers who are undertaking either renewable energy or energy efficiency projects. The programs listed here are particularly suited to helping with rural energy projects, most notably “REAP” (Rural Energy for America Program). A full list of business energy programs is available at www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/energy.htm

Renewable Energy Projects

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

☞ REAP Renewable Energy Generation Grants

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. **Grant applications of \$20,000 or less are greatly favored** in the competitive, selection process. Projects needing larger grants may improve their chances by simultaneously seeking a REAP guaranteed loan (see below). www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/reapre.htm

☞ REAP Guaranteed Loans

For lenders financing renewable energy generating facilities

Same as the REAP grant program above, but provides 60-85% loan guarantees to commercial lenders financing such projects. Loans up to \$25 million can be guaranteed. Combination grant + guaranteed loan assistance up to 75% of total project cost; such “combo” proposals may improve a project’s access to grant assistance and speed approvals. www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/reapgl.htm

☞ Advanced Biofuels Producer Payment Program (\$9005)

Incentive payments for non-corn starch biofuel producers

The \$9005 program makes incentive payments to producers of "advanced biofuels" (i.e., biodiesel or any ethanol made from a non-corn-kernel starch feedstock, including cellulosic ethanol). Payments are allocated among all enrolled, eligible producers according to a formula that pays based on how many BTU’s of biofuel the producer manufactures, with a premium given to producers who exceed their prior year’s production levels. The size of the incentive payment depends on the number of producers participating in the program and the BTU's of biofuel produced. www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/biofuel9005.htm

Energy Efficiency Projects

☞ REAP Energy Efficiency Grants

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. **Grant applications of \$20,000 or less are greatly favored** in the competitive, selection process. Projects needing larger grants may improve their chances by simultaneously seeking a REAP guaranteed loan (see below). www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/reapee.htm

☞ REAP Guaranteed Loans

For lenders financing energy efficiency improvements

Same as the REAP grant program above -- provides 60-85% loan guarantees to commercial lenders financing such projects. Loans up to \$25 million can be guaranteed. Combination grant + guaranteed loan assistance up to 75% of total project cost. www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/reapgl.htm

Energy Planning & Technical Assistance

☞ REAP Feasibility Study Grants

Feasibility studies for renewable energy projects

The REAP program also provides matching grants to rural small businesses & agricultural producers to help them pay for the cost of a detailed, professional, independent feasibility study of their prospective renewable energy projects. Assistance is limited to \$50,000 or 25% of the cost of the study, whichever is less. Grants are awarded via a national competition based on merit. www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/reap_fs.htm

☞ REAP Energy Audit/Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants

Support for energy audit programs and other energy technical assistance

The REAP program also offers grants of up to \$100,000 to entities that provide technical assistance to rural businesses interested in undertaking energy efficiency or renewable energy projects. Assistance is limited to public bodies, institutions of higher learning, and publicly-owned utilities & electric coops, and the funds must be used to conduct energy audits or otherwise provide technical assistance. Grants are awarded via a national competition based on merit. www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/reap_ea.htm

☞ 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 ag commodities or byproducts into biofuel or energy. 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. www.rurdev.usda.gov/or/vapg.htm

Other Rural Business & Community Activities

The programs listed above are focused on helping private businesses and farmer with their energy projects. USDA Rural Development also has community facility and other financing programs that can help **public bodies, tribes, and nonprofits** with community projects which have an energy component. Although these programs are not specifically focused on energy, they still may finance them as part of a general improvement project.

www.rurdev.usda.gov/or

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

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