



# Alternative Energy

## Funding Helps Family Greenhouse/Farm Enterprise Become More Energy Efficient

### Outline Of Need:

Good Harvest Farms, Lancaster County, has experienced growth in its 20 years in business, including the addition of greenhouse plants, fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs to their operation. They wanted to build a new, more energy efficient greenhouse to accommodate its plants.

### How Rural Development Helped:

Rural Development awarded a \$71,964 Rural Energy for America Program grant and a \$100,000 guaranteed loan through Mid Atlantic Farm Credit towards the \$287,855 project.



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### The Results:

The renovations replaced an 80-year old structure with a new 4,000 sq. ft. facility that features an Energy-efficient glass roof with curtains that block or trap heat, radiant heaters in or above the floor and the replacement of an oil-fired hot-air furnace with propane fueled boilers that supply fin-tube and cement embedded tube elements with hot water.

With current fuel prices, there is a projected 2011 energy cost savings of more than \$20,000; a 40 percent reduction in energy costs—exceeding projected savings. And, plant health and quality has improved and been more consistent as a result of the renovations.

The REAP grants and loan guarantees provides funds under the 2008 Farm Bill for energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy systems, feasibility studies and energy audits.

## Fast Facts

<b>Program:</b>	Rural Energy for America
<b>Investment:</b>	\$71,964 grant and \$100,000 loan
<b>Obligated:</b>	5-19-10
<b>Congressional District:</b>	PA-16
<b>Events held:</b>	Check Presentation
<b>Population of County:</b>	Over 500,000
<b>Impact:</b>	Farm will become more economically viable by savings thousands of dollars in annual energy costs.