



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **USDA Rural Development Accepting Applications for Energy Efficiency Improvements and Renewable Energy Systems**

**Topeka** – USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Darla Buckman reminded Kansans that the Agency is accepting applications for grants and loan guarantees from farmers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems, make energy efficiency improvements, or conduct feasibility studies for a renewable energy system. The funds are administered through USDA Rural Development's *Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)*.

The deadline for applications is July 31 and can be sent to the following USDA Rural Development offices in Kansas:

Western Kansas: Attn: Brandon Prough – 2715 Canterbury Drive, Hays, KS 67601 – Phone 785-628-3081

Northeast Kansas: Attn: Larry Holz – 3705 Miller Parkway, Suite A, Manhattan, KS 66503 – Phone 785-776-7582

Southeast Kansas: Attn: Katie Casper – 202 W. Miller Road, Iola, KS 66749 – Phone 620-365-2901

South Central Kansas: Attn: Douglas Clary – 1405 South Spencer Road, Newton, KS 67144 – Phone 316-283-0370

USDA Rural Development Acting State Director Buckman commented, "USDA's energy programs offer Kansas farmers and ranchers, along with rural businesses owners, the opportunity to receive funding assistance to harness the untapped renewable energy resources and achieve greater energy efficiency. Establishing renewable energy projects and enhancing energy efficiency can also provide additional economic development opportunities for Kansans."

Loan guarantees and grants are available to agricultural producers, rural small businesses, and public entities 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 for renewable energy projects may now also qualify for grants under the Rural Energy for America Program.

Examples of projects include large and small wind turbines, solar, grain dryers, geothermal systems, energy efficient refrigerators or freezers and methane digesters.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

***USDA Rural Development – Committed to the future of rural communities.***

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