



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Solar Project Receives Grant Selection From USDA Rural Development *Rural Energy for America Program* *Soldier Township Company Selected For Renewable Energy Funding***

**Manhattan** – USDA Rural Development Area Director Richard K. Boyles, along with Area Specialist Larry D. Holz of the Manhattan Area Office, congratulated Smalley Heating & Cooling of Topeka for being selected to receive a \$4,938 grant to make renewable energy improvements in Northeast Kansas. The funds are administered through USDA Rural Development's *Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)* which was established in the 2008 Farm Bill and is not part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$14,813. Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Area Specialist Larry D. Holz commented, "It has been a delight working with this applicant and we look forward to helping them complete this project. The amount of energy to be produced by this renewable energy system is what the program is all about...a greener America."

The project will be a utility grid-tied solar photovoltaic (PV) system with interconnection agreement.

A grid-feeding inverter takes the direct current output of the photovoltaic array, converts it to alternating current (AC), adjusts the output voltage to match the local utility-grid voltage, and feeds the AC output to both the wiring of the business and the utility grid.

The PV system therefore consists of three basic components: The PV module (or array of panels), the inverter, and the utility grid. The AC voltage supplied by the PV system is used first by the devices of the business (appliances, lights, etc.), and any unconsumed power is then fed through the power meter of the business into the utility grid.

Twenty-three renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Kansas were recently announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, for an aggregate total of \$1,320,373 in loans and grants, with leveraged funds of \$1,578,302.

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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