



NEWS RELEASE

1303 SW First American Place, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66604-4040
Voice (785) 271-2701, FAX (785) 271-2708, WEB www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

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Contact - Harold Alford (785) 271-2701

Niotaze Project Receives Grant Selection From USDA Rural Development *Rural Energy for America Program* *Kansas Energy Efficiency Projects Announced*

Topeka – USDA Rural Development Area Director Randy Snider, along with Area Specialist Katie Casper of the Iola Area Office, congratulated Tandy Joslin of Niotaze for being selected to receive a \$29,855 grant to make renewable energy improvements to her office. 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 \$29,856. Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Area Specialist Katie Casper commented, "Ms. Joslin should be commended for her efforts to reduce energy consumption in her business. By making these proposed improvements, Tandy is not only improving the operations of her business, but the quality of the environment in this community."

The renewable energy project will include the installation of solar panels and geo-thermal heat and air system to the office building.

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

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

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