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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The deadline is approaching for agricultural producers or rural small businesses seeking help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to finance renewable energy or energy-efficiency projects. USDA Rural Development provides grants and loans under the Rural Energy for America Program, funding for which was authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. Applications for this year's program are due by July 31.

Applicants can seek government-backed loans to cover 75 percent of a project's cost, up to \$25 million. Grants are available to cover 25 percent of a project's cost, up to \$500,000 for renewable energy or \$250,000 for energy efficiency. Examples of projects can include large and small wind turbines, solar, geothermal systems, or energy efficiency improvement projects like grain dryer replacement, window replacement, lighting or energy efficient refrigerators or freezers. Applications can be filed electronically at www.grants.gov or by mail to USDA Rural Development, PO Box 1737, Bismarck, ND 58502-1737.

