

USDA / Rural Development

Bismarck, North Dakota

NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY GRANTS AVAILABLE

BISMARCK, May 6, 2004 – ND Rural Development State Director Clare Carlson announced a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) of \$22.8 million in grant funds for renewable energy initiatives. This is part of President Bush's agenda to develop renewable energy systems and promote energy efficiency improvements.

Applicants for the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program must be agricultural producers or rural small businesses (including cooperatives), U.S. citizens or legal residents, and have demonstrated financial need. Rural Development grant funds may be used to pay up to 25 percent of eligible project costs. Eligible projects include those that derive energy from a wind, solar, biomass or geothermal source, as well as hydrogen derived from biomass or water using wind, solar or geothermal sources.

Awards will be made on a competitive basis. Additional information on selection criteria is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html>. Potential applicants may contact either Dale Van Eckhout or Mark Wax at 1-800-582-7584 Ext. 5, with questions.

Applications must be submitted postmarked no later than close of business July 19, 2004 to USDA Rural Development, attention Dale Van Eckhout or Mark Wax, 220 East Rosser Avenue, P.O. Box 1737, Bismarck, ND, 58502-1737.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural economic and community development needs. Its mission is to deliver programs that will support increased economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. It administers financial and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development and critical community and technology infrastructure. *Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.*

In Fiscal Year 2003, USDA Rural Development provided over **\$73.5 million dollars** in loan and grant financing to North Dakota citizens. For more information, please visit our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D. C. 20250-9410