



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**USDA EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR \$23 MILLION  
IN RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANTS**

Lincoln, Neb. May 20, 2003—USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr has announced that the deadline for applying for grants under the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program has been extended from the original date of June 6, 2003 to June 27, 2003.

The deadline was extended to allow additional time for applications to be developed and submitted for the \$23 million in grant funds. The notice extending the deadline for applications will appear in the *Federal Register* on Monday, May 19, 2003. Also included in the *Federal Register* notice will be information clarifying financial and other requirements for the grants along with information on how to access useful resources to assist in the applicant's preparation of the application. Resource information will also be available on USDA Rural Development's website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).

The grant program is available to eligible rural small businesses, farmers, and ranchers to develop renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements to their operations. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or legal residents and have demonstrated financial need.

Grant funds may be used to pay up to 25 percent of the project costs. Eligible projects include those that derive energy from wind, solar, biomass, or geothermal sources. Projects using energy from those sources to produce hydrogen derived from biomass or water are also eligible.

The original Notice of Funding Availability for the grant program, including detailed information about program requirements and how to apply, was posted in the *Federal Register* on April 8, 2003.

Contact Cliff Kumm at (402) 223-3125 for information regarding the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program.

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