



NEWS RELEASE

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Ohio Garners More Than \$64,000 in Renewable Energy Grants *Four Companies to Use Funding for Reducing Energy Operating Costs*

COLUMBUS, OHIO, SEPT. 20, 2006 – USDA Rural Development State Director Randy Hunt joined Mark Deitering, Enviroscope partner in announcing the award of \$64,006 in Rural Development Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Program Grant funding to four Ohio businesses. The funding will be used to help them reduce operational costs and increase profitability.

“At a time when reducing energy consumption is foremost on everyone’s mind, this funding marks continual progress for Ohio’s energy management strategies,” said Hunt. “Rural Development’s energy program is gaining momentum across the country. Every energy efficiency innovation or improvement moves us all closer towards our energy independence goals.”

Rural Development awarded more than \$17.5 million to 375 recipients in 36 states. The program, which includes grants and loans, compliments the Bush Administration’s overall effort to increase America’s energy independence through the development of renewable energy resources as well as improving efficiency of existing systems.

Eligible projects include those that derive energy from a wind, solar, biomass, or geothermal source, or hydrogen derived from biomass or water using wind, solar, or geothermal energy sources. Awards were made on a competitive basis for the purchase of renewable energy systems and to make energy improvements. Ohio’s recipients included: \$35,375 to Enviroscope EMC, Ltd. to install a waste straw pelletizer; \$18,323 to Myron Wehr Farms to purchase a grain dryer which will reduce their annual energy savings; \$10,308 to Tusco Display through two grants to improve lighting and installation of a geothermal heating system.

Since 2003 when the program was established, USDA has provided \$87.3 million in grants and \$34.3 million in loan guarantees to 844 applicants.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs, and administers program assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Program, Rural Business-Cooperative Program, and Rural Utilities Program. Further information on USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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