



Obtaining a \$9006 Guaranteed Loan for "Small-Combo" Projects Rural Energy ("Section 9006) Processing Guide and Application Checklist

"Small-Combo" Projects

"Small-combo" projects are:

- (1) Renewable energy or energy efficiency projects,
- (2) Total project cost is "small" – i.e., \$200,000 or less, and
- (3) The business is simultaneously applying for a **\$9006 grant** and the business's lender is seeking a **\$9006 guaranteed loan** – i.e., "combination" or "combo" funding sources

Because such projects tend to be less complex and because the grant application provides the majority of the needed project information, the lender's application can be processed using a more streamlined, simplified submittal. Lenders are of course responsible for all normal due diligence in underwriting.

Maximum "Small-Combo" Assistance (50% of the project cost)

§9006 grant assistance is limited to 25% of the cost of the rural energy project, and the combined §9006 assistance (grant + guaranteed loan) cannot exceed 50% of the project cost. For example, for a project that costs \$200,000, the following sources of funds could be used:

\$ 30,000	Bank loan #1 (1 st lien on energy equipment being financed)
\$ 50,000 (25%)*	Bank loan #2 with §9006 guarantee (2 nd lien on energy M&E being financed) **
\$ 50,000 (25%)*	§9006 grant **
\$ 50,000	Oregon Business Energy Tax Credit (BETC) using pass-through option **
\$ 10,000	Electric utility incentives **
<u>\$ 10,000</u>	Final cash outlay by business
\$200,000	

* "Combo" §9006 assistance may never exceed 50% of project cost; here this rule is satisfied by the bank making two loans.

** Most energy incentives (inc. §9006 grants & guaranteed loans) are only disbursed after project completion.

The "Small-Combo" Application Process

A "combo" §9006 application package requires information from both the business and the lender. The lender's application consists of all of the items in Exhibit A, but in order for the guaranteed loan application to be complete, the business must also submit a complete §9006 grant application.

☞ "Combo" applications receive expedited processing of both the grant & guarantee applications and bypass the lengthy & highly competitive national grant awards process.

More information about the §9006 Program

USDA Rural Development-Oregon's energy web site – <http://energy.ruraloregon.biz> – has detailed information about all RD energy programs, forms for applying, application guides, templates, forms, and links to other Oregon funding sources.

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Exhibit A: Contents of a "Small-Combo" §9006 Guaranteed Loan Application

The following items constitute a complete "Small-Combo" §9006 guaranteed loan application. (The lender's files should contain appropriate appraisals, business plans, historical financial statements, personal financial statements, credit reports, etc., but these do not need to be submitted to USDA unless USDA determines that the proposed loan appears to carry a significant risk of default.)

Completed Jointly by the Lender and Applicant:

1. Form 4279-1A, "Application for Loan Guarantee (Short Form – One-Doc)." The form is on-line at: <http://bankforms.ruraloregon.biz>

Completed by the Lender:

2. The lender's credit analysis of the proposed loan. This must include spreadsheets comparing the applicant's past and projected financial statements, analyzing financial ratios, and comparing the business with industry averages.
3. A draft of the lender's proposed loan agreement with the borrower. Please note that it must address all of the following issues:

Negative Covenants:

- Limitations on purchase or sale of equipment and fixed assets.
- Limitations on compensation of officers and owners.
- Restriction on dividend payments.
- Restrictions concerning consolidations, mergers, or other circumstances.
- Prohibition against assuming liabilities or obligations of others.
- Limitations on selling the business without the concurrence of the lender.

Financial Standards Covenants:

- Minimum working capital or current ratio requirement.
- Maximum debt-to-net worth ratio.

Reporting Requirements:

- Type and frequency of submission of financial statements. (*Note: The borrower and all guarantors must provide financial statements at least annually.*)
- The borrower must provide reasonable access to the energy project & its performance information during its useful life and allow periodic inspections by the lender and/or USDA

Completed by the Applicant

The rural small business or farmer/rancher is responsible for submitting a complete §9006 *grant* application, including a technical report on the energy project and environmental details about the project. The required contents are on-line at:

- ☞ <http://renewable.ruraloregon.biz> (for renewable energy)
- ☞ <http://efficient.ruraloregon.biz> (for energy efficiency)