



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ANNOUNCES MORE THAN \$13 MILLION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY TO HELP MEET COUNTRY'S ENERGY NEEDS

Harrisburg, PA – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the department is making available \$13.04 million in loans and grants for 233 renewable energy projects in 38 states under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). Dallas Tonsor, Under Secretary for Rural Development, made the announcement on behalf of Vilsack during a speech at the Farm Progress Show.

“Under President Obama’s leadership, USDA is working to increase the availability of renewable energy, which not only will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, but also strengthen our economy nationwide,” Vilsack said. “The funding announced today will help expand America’s renewable energy industry, which is a key part of the nation’s long-term strategy for continued economic prosperity and energy independence.”

The loan guarantees and grants can be used for renewable energy systems, energy efficiency improvements, feasibility studies and energy audits. These funds are not part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. For more information on the REAP program, which is authorized under the 2008 Farm Bill, please visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html. Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant or loan agreement.

In Pennsylvania, John K. Davin of Forever Greene House in Waynesburg, Greene County, received a \$7,268 grant to install a wood fired hydronic heater for his green house.

USDA Rural Development’s mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting www.rurdev.usda.gov.

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