

## Maine Greenhouse Emphasizes “Green” Technologies



Backyard Farms, LLC.'s expansive greenhouse spans 25 acres in Madison. It is the largest greenhouse in New England, growing tomatoes year-round. The company understands the importance of sustainable energy, using energy-efficient technologies in its operations. An example of its efforts is the thermal blankets it uses to reduce heat loss in cold weather.

Backyard Farms is able to expand upon its energy-efficient practices, thanks to a **USDA Rural Development Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Program Grant** in the amount of \$500,000 and a **Guaranteed Loan** with Farm Credit of Maine, ACA in the amount of \$500,000. The funds will assist the company in the purchase of a 6MW biomass boiler system that will replace 90 percent of the fossil fuel use from two existing propane-fired boilers, adding to its environmentally-friendly practices.

The project will also create a substantial number of jobs in the area, allowing the company to expand its workforce from 95 permanent jobs to 225. During peak times the workforce may reach as high as 300.

Backyard Farms Executive Vice President Wayne Davis said, “With USDA’s assistance, Backyard Farms will be able to expand its facility and solidify its position as the premier provider of year-round, fully vine-ripened tomatoes to local markets throughout New England.”

