



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development
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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES \$18.2 MILLION FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY, RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, - Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas Dorr recently announced that 345 proposals in 37 states have been selected to receive a total of \$18.2 million for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

“These funds will help create economic opportunity and reduce energy costs for farmers, ranchers and small businesses in rural communities,” Dorr said. “Our renewable energy programs have a significant impact on creating jobs and investment opportunities and maintaining financially viable communities.”

The grant and loan guarantee/grant combinations are being awarded through USDA’s Section 9006 Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements program. It provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy generation systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Of the \$18.2 million total, \$13.4 million are grants and \$4.8 million are guaranteed loans.

“In Alta, Utah, USDA Rural Development selected, Cottonwood Hydro, Inc. for a \$250,000 grant to assist farmers, rancher, and rural small businesses in developing renewable energy systems, and in making energy-efficiency improvements to their operation”, stated Jack Cox, Utah State Director for USDA Rural Development. “The project will also refurbish and upgrade a small hydro-electric power plant.”

“This is the first combination grant and guaranteed loan we've financed in Utah in this program. We recognize Celtic Bank for being a leader in working with us to iron out some of the processing kinks to make this financing package possible. The energy generated from this hydro power plant is a small piece to the big puzzle of U.S. energy independence,” said Richard Carrig, Business and Cooperatives Program Director.

Funding of individual recipients will be contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the grant/loan guarantee agreement. A complete list of the selected recipients is posted on the USDA Rural Development web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov> .

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$76.8 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.5 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA’s web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ut/>

Committed to the future of rural communities.

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