

United States Department of Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture 1400 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20250 www.rd.usda.gov

News Release

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Trump Administration Awards \$250,000 REAP Grant to DCI Furniture in Rural New Hampshire

Rural Energy for America Program to Provide Funds for Biomass Boiler

LISBON, NH, September 8, 2020 – The Trump Administration today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded a \$250,000 grant to DCI Sustainable Hardwood Furniture for a combined heat-and-power biomass boiler. Along with other contributions, the grant funds will be used to purchase and install the unit in the company's Lisbon headquarters, with annual energy savings estimated to be \$390,000.

Trump Administration Official & Vermont State Director Anthony Linardos recently announced the grant award. "USDA's Rural Energy for America Program helps businesses like DCI Sustainable Hardwood Furniture become more energy independent and reduce costs while supporting the renewable economy in New Hampshire," he said. "Many rural small business owners need support to incorporate renewable energy and energy-efficiency technology into their operations. Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, the USDA has shown its total commitment to improving the lives of rural Americans by making the technology available and easier to afford."

USDA Rural Development awarded the grant through its Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), while DCI provided \$903,000 of the project's \$2.85 million total cost. Administered under USDA Rural Development's Business Programs, REAP grants assist farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses with developing renewable energy systems and energy-efficiency improvements to their operations. The new biomass boiler will be fueled with wood byproducts from DCI's sawmill in Royalton, VT.

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas. For more information, visit <u>www.rd.usda.gov</u>. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our <u>GovDelivery subscriber page</u>.

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