

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants

What does this program do?

Provides grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance (REDA) to eligible agricultural producers and rural small businesses. This program helps promote American energy independence by increasing the private sector supply of renewable energy and decreasing the demand for energy through energy efficiency improvements. Over time, these investments can also help lower energy costs for small businesses and agricultural producers.

Who may apply for this program?

- State, Tribal, or local government entities
- Land-grant colleges or universities, or other higher education institutions
- Rural electric cooperatives
- Public power entity Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils

What are eligible projects?

Grants are provided for:

- Energy audits
- Renewable energy technical assistance
- Renewable energy site assessments

Rural small businesses must be located in eligible rural areas.

However, this restriction does not apply to agricultural producers.

How may funds be used?

Grant funds may be used for:

- Salaries directly related to the project
- Travel expenses directly related to conducting energy audits or renewable energy development assistance
- Office supplies (e.g., paper, pens, file folders)
- Administrative expenses, up to a maximum of 5 percent of the grant, which include but are not limited to:
 - Utilities
 - Office space
 - Office and other project-related equipment operating expenses

Funds may not be used to:

- Pay for construction-related activities
- Purchase or lease equipment
- Pay any judgment or debt owed to the U.S. Government

- Purchase goods or services from a person or entity with a conflict of interest
- Pay costs incurred to prepare applications
- Fund political or lobbying activities

Amount of Assistance

Applicants must submit separate applications for assistance, limited to one energy audit and one REDA request per fiscal year. The maximum aggregate amount of an energy audit and REDA grant in any given fiscal year is \$100,000.

How do we get started?

- Applications for this program are accepted year round at your local RD office.
- Program Resources are available online (including forms needed, guidance, certifications, etc.).

Who can answer questions?

Contact your State Rural Development Energy Coordinator.

What governs this program?

- Basic Program – 7 CFR 4280, Subpart B
- This program is authorized by Title IX of the Agricultural Act of 2018, (2018 Farm Bill)

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change, please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled “What Governs This Program?” You may also contact your local office for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.