



Rural Development
Montana State Office

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Media Advisory

Advisory No.: 160209-A

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Comprehensive Energy Workshops for Small Businesses & Agricultural Producers

Funding Sources (grant & loan), Efficiency Projects, Renewable 101, Project Examples, Application Assistance, and Local Montana Resources to Make Energy Projects Happen!

BOZEMAN, MT, February 9, 2016 – USDA Rural Development in partnership with Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) (Renewable Energy Program) will host a series of seven free energy workshops at various Montana locations - “Making Energy Work for Your Small Business or Agricultural Operation”.

These free, one-day workshops will feature the USDA Rural Energy for America (REAP) grant and loan program, the Montana DEQ Renewable Energy Program, as well as, a comprehensive lineup of speakers, experienced in facilitating both Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy projects here in Montana.

Detailed presentations and panels addressing funding options, Energy Efficiency projects, Renewable Energy technologies/updates, energy in manufacturing facilities, opportunities for ag producers and application assistance will be delivered. Additionally, program experts will host question and answer sessions and will be available for one-on-one consultation.

Media are welcome and encouraged to both attend the workshop and disseminate information as to the date, time, location and details of the event.

WHAT: “Making Energy Work for Your Small Business or Agricultural Operation”

February Workshops

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|---------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| WHEN: | Tuesday, Feb. 16 | Wednesday, Feb. 17 | Thursday, Feb 18 | Tuesday, Feb. 23 |
| WHERE: | Montana State Building 2405 Tradewinds Way Thompson Falls, MT | Lake Comm. Dev. Corp. 407 Main Street SW Ronan, MT | Mineral County Chamber 102 River Street Superior, MT | Helena Chamber 225 Cruse Ave Helena, MT |
| CONTACT/ RSVP: | heather.handeland@mt.usda.gov 406-829-3395 ext. 106 | heather.handeland@mt.usda.gov 406-829-3395 ext. 106 | heather.handeland@mt.usda.gov 406-829-3395 ext. 106 | donna.wyatt@mt.usda.gov 406-585-2545 |

March Workshops

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|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| WHEN: | Tuesday, March 15 | Tuesday, March 22 | Wednesday, March 23 |
| WHERE: | Thornton Building 65 E Broadway Butte, MT | Park County Library 228 W Callender Livingston, MT | TBD Location TBD Miles City, MT |
| CONTACT/ RSVP: | donna.wyatt@mt.usda.gov 406-585-2545 | donna.wyatt@mt.usda.gov 406-585-2545 | martin.dewitt@mt.usda.gov 406-627-6297 ext. 121 |

WHY: For many small businesses and agricultural producers’ energy costs can be among their highest variable costs. This program helps increase 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 the cost of energy costs for small businesses and agricultural producers.

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