

STAKEHOLDER NOTIFICATION

Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant Program Now Accepting Applications Through January 31, 2025

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting proposals to conduct energy audits and to provide Renewable Energy Development Assistance (REDA) for rural small businesses and agricultural producers. Services may also include:

- advising on energy efficiency improvements,
- providing information about renewable energy technologies and resources, and
- assessing the potential for renewable energy systems including solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, or hydroelectric.

Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to eligible entities. Funds may be used for salaries, travel expenses, office supplies, and up to 5% for administrative costs.

Eligibility: Organizations eligible to receive funding include state and local governments, Federally-recognized Tribes, institutions of higher education, rural electric cooperatives, public power entities, or a resource conservation & development council.

Examples of recent grant recipients in New England include:

- [College of the Atlantic](#) was awarded \$64K in 2018 to provide Hancock County businesses and agricultural producers with solar energy assessments and to educate local businesses about renewable energy funding options.
- [Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission](#) (SMPDC) was awarded a grant of \$100K in 2021 to provide energy audits to small businesses and agricultural producers in rural York County. Since being awarded, SMPDC has significantly increased the service area to further assist small businesses and agricultural producers outside of York County.
- The [Vermont Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation](#) was awarded \$100K in 2020. They partnered with the Biomass Energy Resource Center to help hospitality businesses reduce fossil-fuel use and convert to efficient wood-heat systems.

For more information and to apply: See the [Maine Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Program](#) webpage and the [Federal Register](#) for more information. Contact Kirsten Brewer, Grants Management Specialist, with specific questions (call 207-241-5364 or email Kirsten.Brewer@usda.gov).

Applications must be submitted by email to the USDA Rural Development State Office by 4:30 p.m. local time on January 31, 2025.

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