



News Release

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USDA Helps Rural Businesses Make Energy Efficiency Improvements, Adopt Renewable Energy Systems

Investments will Help 11 Counties in Rural Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 10, 2019 – Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald “DJ” LaVoy today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [is investing \\$237 million to help farmers, ag producers and rural-based businesses lower energy costs](#). The Department is providing 640 awards to applicants in all 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Western Pacific. USDA is providing the funding through the [Rural Energy for America Program](#) (REAP). Tennessee Rural Development State Director Jim Tracy is pleased to announce 13 projects will benefit from REAP funding.

“USDA is committed to being a strong partner to rural businesses,” Tracy said. “Lowering energy costs is significant in improving and creating jobs for these businesses.”

Recipients can use REAP funding for energy audits and to install renewable energy systems such as biomass, geothermal, hydropower and solar. The funding can also be used to increase energy efficiency by making improvements to heating, ventilation and cooling systems; insulation; and lighting and refrigeration.

In Tennessee:

- 287 Partnership, LLC will receive a \$250,000 grant
- Ayaan Hospitality will receive a \$49,856 grant
- CRC3, LLC will receive a \$44,607 grant
- Cumberland Toyota will receive a \$49,950 grant
- Distributed Solar Holdings, LLC will receive a \$1,100,000 loan
- Hamm, Gary and Linda will receive a \$31,210 grant
- Newton Nissan of Gallatin Inc. will receive a \$44,825 grant
- Newton Nissan South will receive a \$31,568 grant
- Rising Sun Corporation will receive a \$34,475 grant
- Steam Plant Road Properties, LLC will receive a \$60,332 grant
- Stone Investments, LLC will receive a \$32,250 grant
- TKC Hospitality I, LLC will receive a \$62,500 grant

- Webb Farm Solar System, Inc. will receive a \$101,924 grant

For a description of each investment, [click here](#).

In April 2017, President Donald J. Trump established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity to identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that could promote agriculture and prosperity in rural communities. In January 2018, Secretary Perdue presented the Task Force's findings to President Trump. These findings included 31 recommendations to align the federal government with state, local and tribal governments to take advantage of opportunities that exist in rural America. Supporting the rural workforce was a cornerstone recommendation of the task force.

To view the report in its entirety, please view the [Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity](#) (PDF, 5.4 MB). In addition, to view the categories of the recommendations, please view the [Rural Prosperity infographic](#) (PDF, 190 KB).

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 www.rd.usda.gov/tn.

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