



News Release

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Trump Administration Invests \$631,993 in Renewable Energy Program in Rural Puerto Rico

Investment to Help farmers, ranchers, and rural small business in developing renewable energy systems and making energy-efficiency improvements to their operations.

San Juan, PR, August 24, 2020 – The Trump Administration today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$631,993 on the Rural Energy for America Program in Rural Puerto Rico.

“Rural Development investment to increase energy resilience and decrease the demand for energy through energy efficiency improvements. Over the time these investments can also help lower cost of energy for rural small businesses and agricultural producers,” said Josue E. Rivera, USDA Rural Development State Director for Puerto Rico. “Under the leadership of President Trump and Agriculture Secretary Perdue, USDA has been working tirelessly to be a strong partner to rural Puerto Rico in building stronger and healthier communities, because we know when rural America thrives, all of America thrives.”

In Puerto Rico, 16 recipients were awarded. Funds will be used to develop renewable energy projects and to perform energy audits for agro-businesses.

- 1) Ana G. Mendez University System was awarded \$59,267 to conduct approximately 25 energy audits for agro-business. These audits will provide the analysis to make energy efficiency improvements and or installations of renewable energy systems on each participant’s business.
- 2) Supermercados Selectos Mana, located at San Sebastian, Puerto Rico was awarded \$287,500, for the purchase and installation of a 743 kW Solar System. This project will realize \$230,580 per year in savings.
- 3) Vaqueria Maria, owned by a local farmer in Morovis, Puerto Rico, was awarded \$28,750 for the purchase and installation of a 44.84 kW Solar System. This project will realized \$16,115 per year in savings.

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.

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