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# News Release

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## USDA Rural Development Accepting Grant Applications for 2021 REAP Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance

*Applications Due February 1, 2021*

**MONTPELIER, VT, December 8, 2020** – USDA Rural Development is now accepting applications for the [Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants \(REAP EA/REDA\)](#), with an application deadline of February 1, 2021. REAP EA/REDA grants strengthen American energy independence by helping rural businesses gain access to more sources of renewable energy and establish energy-efficiency solutions.

Eligible applicants include public-body organizations, state and local governments, institutions of higher education, rural electric cooperatives, and public-power entities, among others. Applications are available for both energy-audit assistance and renewable-energy site assessments and technical assistance. The maximum annual aggregate amount of an energy audit and REDA grant is \$100,000. In 2020, the program provided \$291,474 in funding for Vermont and New Hampshire rural communities. Projects from 2020 include:

- **Lakes Region Community College** – Technical assistance helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses throughout New Hampshire implement solar photovoltaic and wood thermal energy.
- **New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority** - Provides businesses with energy-savings strategies and technical assistance to identify project funding sources through partner organizations.
- **Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation**- Partners with the Biomass Energy Resource Center to help hospitality businesses like hotels and inns reduce fossil-fuel use and convert to efficient wood-heat systems.

For questions and guidance regarding REAP EA/REDA grant applications, please contact USDA RD Business Program Energy Specialist **Ken Yearman** at (802) 828-6070 or [Kenneth.Yearman@usda.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Yearman@usda.gov).

USDA Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities and create jobs in rural areas. This assistance supports housing, infrastructure improvements, business development, high-speed internet access, and community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care. For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov](http://www.rd.usda.gov). If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

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