



News Release

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On Earth Day, USDA Invests \$490 Million in Rural Water, Energy, and Biofuel Infrastructure

Vermont and New Hampshire Rural Residents, Businesses Benefit

WASHINGTON, April 22, 2021 – Today, in honor of Earth Day 2021, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Justin Maxson announced the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is investing \$490 million in critical infrastructure that will help communities in 45 states build back better and stronger while prioritizing climate-smart solutions and environmental stewardship. USDA is making the investments under the [Water and Environmental Program \(WEP\)](#), the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#), the [Electric Loan Program](#) and the [Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program](#).

“When we invest in accessible and modern climate-smart infrastructure in rural communities, we invest in rebuilding the middle class by creating good-paying jobs,” Maxson said. “The investments we are announcing today demonstrate how the Biden-Harris Administration has put rural communities at the heart of climate action and climate-smart solutions.”

Rural Water and Wastewater Infrastructure:

USDA is investing \$376 million through the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program (WWD) to modernize rural drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in 31 states. Through its Water and Environmental Programs, USDA funds vital water infrastructure that directly benefits the health, economic vitality and environment of rural America.

USDA Rural Development in Vermont and New Hampshire will announce two significant WEP projects funded through WWD grants and loans—one in each state—tomorrow, April 23rd at 11am EST.

Renewable Energy in Rural Communities:

USDA is investing \$78 million in renewable energy infrastructure in 30 states through REAP. This program helps agricultural producers and rural small businesses purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements. Projects financed under this program can help to reduce the amount of greenhouse gas pollution that affects our climate.

For example, in Meredith, New Hampshire, Moulton Farm will use an \$8,400 REAP grant to mount a 15.4 kW rooftop solar array that generates 17,167 kWh annually. This renewable energy production will save the farm an average of \$2,400 a year, producing the equivalent of 420 gallons of heating oil and 472 gallons of gasoline.

Other projects in Vermont and New Hampshire through the Rural Energy for America Program include:

New Hampshire

Grant	Project
\$17,500	PIP Rental, LLC in Farmington will install two pole-mounted solar trackers totaling 19.2kW, generating an additional \$3,000 in annual revenue.
\$8,750	Ian Joseph Campbell, LLC will install a 9.6kW pole-mounted solar tracker at its car wash in Rochester, providing 76 percent of the facility's energy needs.
\$8,750	RSA Realty, LLC will install a 9.6kW pole-mounted solar tracker at a commercial building in Rochester, creating enough electricity to offset its annual usage.
\$9,742	Chase Family Sugaring in Lisbon will use 500 fewer gallons of fossil fuels by installing a more efficient evaporator, reducing 75 percent of annual energy costs.

Vermont

\$13,215	Bartlett Lane, LLC will install a 7.8kW solar array with battery storage at a seasonal rental property in West Dover, Vermont, generating all the property's power and storing extra for outages.
\$19,000	TTLC Nursing Associates, Inc. out of South Burlington will install a 26.5kW solar array to replace 97 percent of the building's power needs and save \$4,538/yr.
\$10,281	Dalestead Farm and Maple, LLC in Enosburg is installing a new evaporator to reduce boil time, resulting in 51 percent annual energy reduction equaling 1500 gallons of fuel oil.
\$13,120	GMG Farms, LLC will install a thermal curtain in its Charlotte green house, significantly reducing the amount of oil and propane required to heat the facility.
\$14,375	Enviroprofit, LLC out of Wardsboro will mount a 20kW solar array on its roof that will supply all of the building's electrical needs.

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans 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, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. If you'd like to subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit our [GovDelivery subscriber page](#).

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit www.usda.gov.

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