

## REAP Summary Sheet for Focus on Energy Partners

**BACKGROUND.** The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides grants and loan guarantees to farmers and rural small businesses to help them reduce energy costs and consumption.

**ELIGIBILITY.** 1) **Agricultural producers**, such as individuals or entities directly engaged in the production of agricultural products that get 50 percent plus of their gross income from agricultural production, or 2) **Small rural businesses** (must meet SBA definition of small business) including private entities, sole proprietorships, partnerships, corporations, or cooperatives. The applicant must also be located in a rural area that has a population of less than 50,000. This program excludes residential projects.

**ALLOWED USES OF PROGRAM FUNDS.** 1) Purchase and installation of equipment, except ag tillage equipment/vehicles (post-application); 2) Construction (post-application); 3) Feasibility studies and business plans; 4) Professional service fees for energy audits, assessments, and other services, *excluding* application preparation; 5) Permit fees and costs associated with environmental reviews; and 6) Working capital and land purchases (guaranteed loans only).

### FUNDING LIMITS.

- 1) Grants cannot exceed 25 percent of eligible project costs;
- 2) Guaranteed loans cannot exceed 75 percent of eligible project costs;
- 3) Combined guaranteed loan and grant cannot exceed 75 percent of eligible project costs;
- 4) Renewable Projects: A minimum grant of \$2,500 and a maximum grant of \$500,000. A minimum guaranteed loan of \$5,000 and a maximum guaranteed loan of \$25,000,000;
- 5) Energy Efficiency Projects: A minimum grant of \$1,500 and a maximum grant of \$250,000. A minimum guaranteed loan of \$5,000 and a maximum guaranteed loan of \$25,000,000.

**APPLICATION TIPS.** Apply early, work with a Grant Writer (see Attachment 2), and coordinate with your local utility and Focus on Energy. ***We encourage you to submit your application as soon as possible; once the program is funded by late spring, we expect the dollars to be committed very quickly by applicants around the country.***

### IMPORTANT 2010 REAP ITEMS.

- 2010 REAP rules will be released in late spring. However, the USDA is accepting applications now. If you submit an application early under the 2009 rules, you can modify your application if 2010 program rules require it.
- In 2009, USDA assigned priority for applications based upon the request (this could change, but not likely):
  - 1) Small grants (grant requests of less than \$20,000)
  - 2) Loan guarantee only
  - 3) Combination grant and loan guarantee
  - 4) Grant only

To learn the latest details, you can visit Wisconsin's USDA REAP website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/programs/rbs/energy.htm> for program updates. The presentation below was recently given as a webinar. It gives very detailed information about the qualification and application process. <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/programs/rbs/library/presentation-REAP2-2009.pdf>

**For contact information, please see Attachment 1.**

## ATTACHMENT 1: KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

### 1. More Information About the REAP Program

Brenda Heinen, State Energy Coordinator  
WI USDA Rural Development Office  
4949 Kirschling Court  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
(715) 345-7615, Ext. 139 or [Brenda.Heinen@wi.usda.gov](mailto:Brenda.Heinen@wi.usda.gov)



### 2. Hiring a Grant Writer

Use the list provided in Attachment 2 or visit:  
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/programs/rbs/library/Grant%20Writing%20Consultants.pdf>

### 3. Energy Analysis Assistance

----- *Focus on Energy Specialists* -----

<u>Electric Provider Name</u>		<u>Production Ag</u>		<u>Ag. Processing</u>
Contact your local provider	OR	Kelly Hermsdorf		Craig Schepp
		608.273.0182 ext. 2222		608.277.2948
		<a href="mailto:kelly.hermsdorf@gdsassociates.com">kelly.hermsdorf@gdsassociates.com</a>		<a href="mailto:scheppc@saic.com">scheppc@saic.com</a>

### 4. Finding Additional Incentives for Energy Efficiency or Renewable Energy Projects

- Same contacts as in #3 above
- Environmental Quality Incentives (EQUIP) and other USDA NRCS grants  
Gene Nimmer, Ag Engr, NRCS Energy Team  
608-662-4422 Ext. 291 or [Gene.Nimmer@wi.usda.gov](mailto:Gene.Nimmer@wi.usda.gov)

## ATTACHMENT #2: LIST OF REAP GRANT WRITERS

The following people have expressed interest in assisting with Rural Energy for America (REAP) applications. No endorsement is made by the USDA, DATCP, Focus on Energy, or any energy provider for any of the following consultants. It is the applicant's responsibility to screen any consultant they may hire. ***We emphasize that successful grant applications require significant involvement from the applicant.***

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