

# Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

May 2015



## Improve Facilities While Reducing Energy Use & Costs on Your Farm

Contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program today!  
We'll walk you through the steps to get expert assistance and funding.

Phone: 413-727-3090 • E-mail: [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com)

Visit our website: [www.massfarmenergy.com](http://www.massfarmenergy.com), submit a Request Form, and we will contact you!



## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

- Applications for the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Agricultural Energy Grants for up to \$25,000 are due June 11. For more details, please see [MDAR's website](#).
  - The next REAP deadline for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants and loan guarantees is June 30, for all project sizes. For more information on applying, please see the [REAP Grants section of the MFEP website](#).
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## Events

- A series of professional development workshops for New England agricultural service providers on "Access to Capital" is scheduled for May and June! To register, as well as view a full workshop schedule, locations, and dates, go to: [www.agriculturalaccesstocapital.com](http://www.agriculturalaccesstocapital.com).
    - *Who should attend?* Individuals who have experience providing services to agricultural businesses in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.
    - *Questions?* Please contact the event coordinator, Sarah Cogswell, at [cogswell.sarah3@gmail.com](mailto:cogswell.sarah3@gmail.com).
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## Tips for Saving Energy and Money: LED Lighting



LED Lighting upgrade at Szawlowski Potato Farm, Hatfield.

If you are still using incandescent or mercury vapor lights on your farm or in your greenhouse, replacing them with LEDs (Light-Emitting Diodes) could be a win-win: Saving you money and providing a brighter, safer, healthier work environment.

**Did you know? LEDs...**

**Cost less to operate**

Incandescent light bulbs are inefficient and costly to operate, converting only 5–10% of the energy that they use to light, and lasting only 600-2000 hours. In comparison, LED lamps use up to 80% less energy and can last for 25,000-50,000 hours. Additionally, every incandescent bulb replaced with an Energy Star certified light bulb saves about \$10 in energy costs each year, and more than \$50 over its lifetime!

**Have many benefits**

LEDs come on instantly, provide warm and inviting light without the flickering and humming of older fluorescent bulbs, and are as bright as standard bulbs. Bulbs are available in a variety of styles, shapes and sizes, and can also be purchased in dimmable models.

**Have many applications – inside and out**

LEDs can replace interior and exterior lighting for barns, greenhouses, office spaces, workshops, and even walk-in coolers. LEDs are effective in greenhouses, because lamps can be selected to emit only the wavelength of light needed for plant growth. LEDs are also good for cold storage applications, as they will work at temperatures down to -13F, and have a low heat output.

**Use even less energy (and money) when combined with other technologies**

Other technologies used in tandem with LEDs include reflectors to focus light in the desired location, motion sensors to ensure that lights go off when not in use, and daylight controls that sense how much natural light is in the space and adjust the bulbs' output accordingly.

**Are eligible for generous financial incentives**

Not only is the upfront cost of LEDs coming down, but abundant incentives are available to help finance energy efficient lighting projects. Contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program today to get help with yours!

For more information about LEDs and other energy efficient lighting, visit:

[Mass Save's page on Lighting and Lighting Controls](#)

[The Energy Federation's page on LED Lighting](#)

[U.S. Department of Energy's page on Using LEDs](#)

[The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program's Tip Sheet on Outdoor Lighting](#)



LED lighting, emitting selected wavelengths, in a greenhouse at Full Bloom Market Garden, Whately

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**Take Steps Today to Save Energy and Money! Here's how:**

1. Learn about what's most applicable to your operation. Check out our [Best Management Practices](#) online.
2. Have an energy audit to determine the best, most cost-effective measures for your farm. An energy audit helps determine potential savings and worthwhile investments.
3. Install recommended efficient, cost effective measures. Begin with low and no-cost measures, and don't forget annual maintenance.
4. Get funding. Before you install measures, be sure to get information about grants and financial incentives available to help with cost effective improvements, including renewable energy.
5. Enjoy your savings!

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