

# Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

March 2017



## Follow the Rainbow to Savings!

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program has funds to help farms cover audits, energy efficiency projects, and select renewable energy projects. Contact us for more information, or to get started now! Spring is a great time to think about maximizing energy use on your farm.

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

or

Visit our website: [www.massfarmenergy.com](http://www.massfarmenergy.com) and submit a [Request Form](#)



Liz Budd, from CET and the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program, presenting on farm energy in Massachusetts at the 2017 Harvest New England Conference.

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## News & Events

### **The REAP Spring Funding Cycle is Almost Over!**

The Rural Energy for America Program, or REAP, provides grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. The upcoming REAP deadline is March 31, 2017, so make sure to get your applications in on time! For more information on applying [click here](#), and if you would like help with your application, or to talk to the Mass Farm Energy Program about REAP, call 413-727-3090.

### **REAP Webinar Recording**

On March 10, the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program hosted an informational webinar on applying to REAP. If you weren't able to make it, a recording of the webinar [can be accessed here](#). There is another REAP deadline this fall, and it's never too early to start planning for this grant!

### **Photo Call**

Would you like to see your farm featured in our newsletter? Send us your pictures, especially of any projects you've done or actions you've taken to increase energy efficiency, and you could see them here! Pictures can be sent to [megan.denardo@cetonline.org](mailto:megan.denardo@cetonline.org). Show other farmers across Massachusetts what you're doing to save energy, and help inspire others to do the same.

### **CISA Events**

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) is hosting a plethora of exciting events and workshops in March and April, including a public policy workshop, a class on making cheeses of the British Isles, and a webinar on organic certification. For the full list and more details, [visit their events page](#).

### **Attention Dairy Farmers!**

The Green Your Bottom Line in Food and Beverage Businesses: An Energy & Environmental Workshop, which is being held on April 4th, wants to hear from you! This workshop aims to help food and beverage manufacturers green their operations, and will have a special focus on anaerobic digestion. Please consider attending if you would like to:

- Increase energy efficiency
- Reduce costs
- Use safer cleaning materials
- Improve operations
- Share experiences
- Tour a green energy facility

For more information and an agenda, [click here](#). Registration is free, but must be submitted by noon on April 3rd.

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## **Grant Information & Deadlines**

### **Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)**

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy and energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **March 31, 2017**. Applications must be received by a [Rural Development office](#) by **4:30pm on the 31st**. For more information on applying, [click here](#). If you feel you will miss the spring deadline, you'll have another chance to apply in October!

### **REAP Application Assistance**

Need help with your REAP application? The [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program](#) is able to help farms prepare their REAP applications at no cost. REAP applications can be submitted any time, so [contact us now!](#)

## **Spotlight On: Harvest New England Conference**



From left to right: Amanda Fargo-Johnson, CT Farm Energy Program; Megan Denardo, CET & MA Farm Energy Program; Alex DePillis, VT Division of Agricultural Development; Liz Budd, CET & MA Farm Energy Program; Anne Correia, USDA Rural Development

The 2017 [Harvest New England Agricultural Marketing Conference and Trade Show](#) was held in Sturbridge, MA March 7-9. Staff from the [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program](#) were invited to exhibit and speak at this conference, as part of a multi-state panel on Farm Energy 101.

During the Energy 101 breakout session, representatives from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont spoke on a panel about the programs assisting farms in their states, and a USDA representative did a brief overview of the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). This was a great opportunity for agricultural producers to learn more about how they could not only maximize energy use on their farms, but also leverage grant funds to help pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

If you are interested in energy efficiency or renewable energy on your farm, and are located in a New England state, please contact Megan Denardo ([megan.denardo@cetonline.org](mailto:megan.denardo@cetonline.org); 413-727-3090) for contact information for the appropriate representative. If you're located in Massachusetts but missed us at the conference, we would be happy to discuss your options with you!



Anne Correia, USDA Rural Development, presents on the REAP grant at the Harvest New England Conference in Sturbridge.

## 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!