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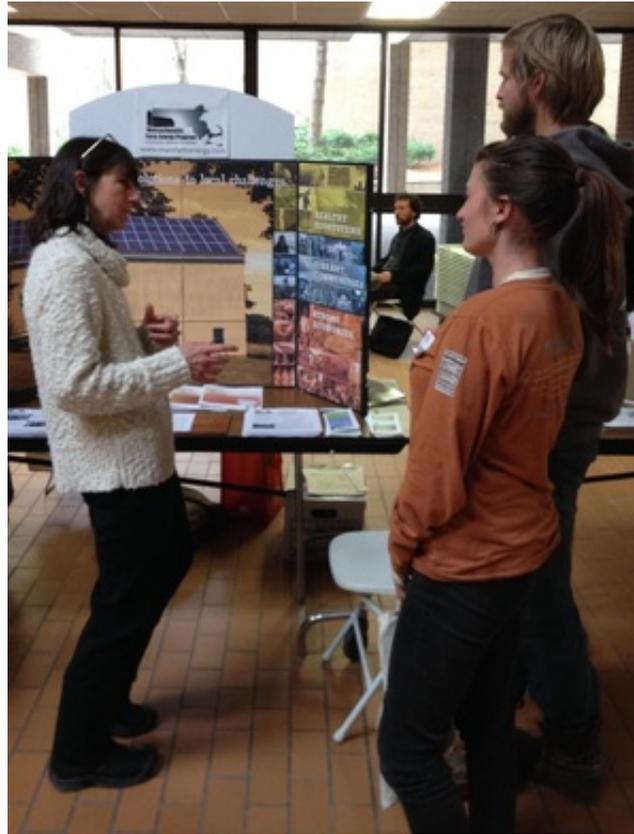
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Massachusetts Farm Energy Program April, 2014



Nancy Nysten at SEMAP Conference

What's New with the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program?

New Team!

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources has selected the [Center for EcoTechnology](#) (CET) to administer the [MA Farm Energy Program](#) (MFEP)! We are excited to work with farms across the state to provide assistance and financial incentives to help install energy efficiency and renewable energy measures.

Nancy Nysten is the new manager of MFEP. Nancy has been at CET for three decades, where she has developed and delivered environmental education and technical assistance programs for municipalities,

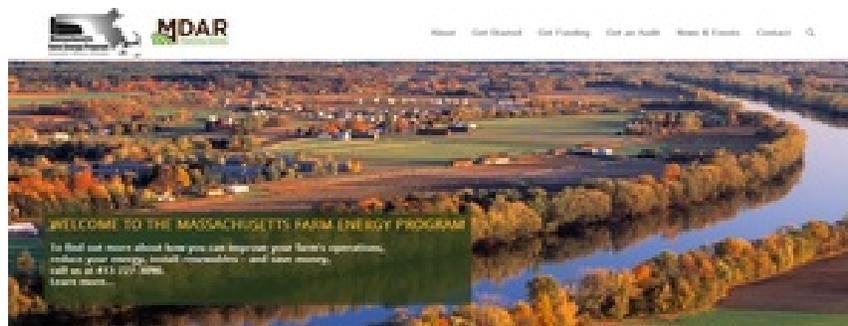
businesses (including farms!), non-profit organizations, and residents. She focuses on local solutions to energy issues that are beneficial to the economy, natural environment and quality of life for community members. She began her career at the Alaska Division of Energy and Power Development in the late 1970's and has worked for state and non-profit organizations in Washington, New Mexico and Massachusetts in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable resources for over 30 years.

For more than 35 years, the Center for EcoTechnology has helped people and businesses—including farms—in Massachusetts save energy and reduce waste. Our 75 staff members operate out of offices in Pittsfield and Northampton, and from [EcoBuilding Bargains](#) Springfield. Our field staff are located throughout Massachusetts. We have already begun talking with farmers – from New Bedford to the Berkshires – and look forward to working with farms across the state, providing:

- a clearinghouse for information about on-farm energy resources
- one-on-one consultations
- workshop presentations
- financial incentives for energy audits and recommended measures
- a monthly e-newsletter
- an up-to-date [website](#) full of timely tips and technical resources.

We also look forward to collaborating with other agencies as we work closely with you to identify and help leverage technical support and funding for farms to reduce their use of fossil fuels and their energy bills!

New Website and Contact Information – and Funding!



Please visit (and bookmark!) our new website: www.massfarmenergy.com. Have you been meaning to get an energy

audit for your farm? Are there energy efficiency projects you would like to complete? To learn more about how you can improve your farm's operations, reduce your energy use and save money, please complete the [Request Form](#) online or email us at info@massfarmenergy.com or call 413-727-3090. We look forward to hearing from you!

What Else is New?

New round of Energy Grants for Farms in Massachusetts – Applications Welcome!



Interested in decreasing your energy use and costs – while increasing efficiency at your farm? Thinking about a renewable energy installation, such as solar, wind or biomass? The Agricultural Energy Grant Program (Ag Energy) is a competitive grant program sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) that may be for you and your farm. Ag-Energy grants will fund up to \$20,000 toward eligible renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, and MDAR is now accepting applications. Complete applications and with all necessary documentation are due May 30, 2014.

Examples of priority projects for energy efficiency have included; precoolers, variable speed vacuum pumps, thermal blankets for greenhouses, reverse osmosis equipment for maple sugaring operations, and high efficiency refrigeration.

The farming operation must have received an energy audit/energy assessment, or demonstrate the initiation of such. The applicant must be an agricultural operation as defined by the Massachusetts General Law c.128, Section 1A and be a legally recognized entity within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To learn more or to apply, please download the application from the [MDAR web page](#).

For information about the grant process or how to prepare for submission, please contact Gerry Palano at MDAR - **617-626-1706** or Gerald.Palano@state.ma.us.

AND...Federal Funds Available for Energy Efficiency for Massachusetts Farms!



[USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services \(NRCS\)](#) of Massachusetts is now accepting applications for the [Environmental Quality Incentives \(EQIP\) program](#)! Submit your completed application to your local NRCS office by **May 16, 2014**. Farms can apply for:

- Farm energy audits: funding toward the required Ag Energy Management Plan
- Energy Efficiency measures:
 - Greenhouse - efficient heating, thermal curtains, fans, root-zone heating
 - Dairy: Refrigeration heat recovery, variable speed drives for vacuum pumps, scroll compressors
 - Maple: High efficiency evaporators, reverse osmosis, pre-heaters

Applicants must first have USDA determine their farm's eligibility and then get a conservation plan developed by NRCS. Contact [your local field office](#) to begin the process or call us with questions.

Renewable Thermal Grant Deadline Extended!

The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and Department of Energy Resources have extended the deadline for their [Renewable Heating and Cooling and District Heating solicitation](#) to June 30, 2014. Construction grants are available for qualifying biomass boiler technology, ground source heat pumps and/or qualified district energy systems. Grants are also available for feasibility, design and engineering studies.

Questions? Email: renewablethermal@masscec.com

Thank You!

CET thanks Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development (BPRC&D) for their ongoing support, and specifically Jess Cook and Layla Hazen for their dedication and hard work in helping farms across the state these past several years. We have big shoes to fill and look forward to working with the people and programs they have introduced us to - and continued success in bringing resources to farms across the state.