

# Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

July 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!



Pioneer Gardens, Deerfield

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## Upcoming Grant Deadlines

- The next REAP deadline for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants and loan guarantees is October 31, for all project sizes. For more information on applying, [click here](#).

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## Events

### Funding Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Projects

August 6, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Plainville Farm, 135 Mount Warner Rd, Hadley, MA

Learn about the many grants and incentives available to help you implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on your farm! Wally Czajkowski of Plainville Farm will show us improvements he has made and discuss his experiences getting funding; Gerry Palano from MDAR will talk about Ag Energy grants; agency staff from USDA Rural Development, NRCS, and FSA will provide funding updates about each of their programs and The Center for EcoTechnology (CET) will talk about utility incentives and the role the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program plays in helping farms get energy audits and navigate funding programs.

A light meal will be provided, \$10 suggested donation. RSVP by August 3 to [Devon Whitney-Deal](#) or

413-665-7100, ext. 22.

## **On-Farm Solar Energy Applications**

August 27, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Atlas Farm, 635 River Rd Deerfield, MA

If you use hot water year-round and are wondering if installing a solar hot water system might be an affordable and practical option, join us at Atlas Farm to learn about solar thermal applications for farms. Gerry Palano of MDAR will discuss solar thermal technology, applications, and funding opportunities. Gideon Porth will discuss his experience with photovoltaics and plans to install solar hot water. CET will discuss the role that the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program plays in helping farms get energy audits and navigate funding programs. A representative from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center will discuss projects that have utilized solar thermal, heat pump technologies, and biomass.

A light meal will be provided, \$10 suggested donation. RSVP by August 24 to [Devon Whitney-Deal](#) or 413-665-7100, ext. 22.

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## **Tips for Saving Energy and Money: Solar Electric**



Solar electric panels on a barn roof at Mapeline Farm in Hadley.

Solar electric systems are ideal for offsetting the electrical production of a facility, and have been used successfully in all agricultural sectors and at farms of any size. Solar electric systems have very few moving parts, have a long rated life (25+ years), work successfully, and provide a high rate of return on investment.

Solar electric systems use solar electric panels to generate direct current (DC) electricity from the sun's radiation. This DC electricity can directly power DC equipment during the day, and can also be converted to alternating current (AC) using a DC/AC inverter to power AC equipment.

Some benefits of solar electric include: reducing electric bills, minimal maintenance since the systems operate silently without moving parts, insulating your business from future fuel price increases, long life span, receiving public notice as an environmentally-friendly business, and providing pollution-free electricity.



To reduce system costs, energy and water conservation should be considered prior to installing a photovoltaic system. Additionally, a site assessment is essential to determine the feasibility of solar electric projects and should be done by a certified assessor.

To learn more about how you can install a solar electric system on your farm, contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program today!



Solar panels at Edgewood Bogs in Carver.

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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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