

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

March 2016



Make Your Projects Spring Into Being!

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program not only funds audits, but also energy efficient and select renewable energy projects too!

Contact us now for more information!

Phone: 413-727-3090 • E-mail: info@massfarmenergy.com

or

Visit our website: www.massfarmenergy.com, submit a Request Form, and we will contact you!



Dana Goodfield, owner and operator of Stonegate Sugarhouse, and Agricultural Commissioner John Lebeaux at the 2016 Mass Maple Month Kickoff Celebration.

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP) Information

Upcoming Deadlines

The next REAP deadline for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **April 30, 2016** for all project sizes. For more information on applying, [click here](#).

For more information about REAP, contact Megan (megan.denardo@cetonline.org; 413-727-3090) to

register for the REAP workshop on March 16th!

REAP Application Assistance

Need help preparing your REAP application? The [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program](#) is able to provide it! Our program recently received a grant to help farms prepare their REAP applications, at no cost. But don't wait until the deadline approaches; REAP applications can be submitted any time, so [contact us now!](#)

News & Events

Governor Baker Declares March "Massachusetts Maple Month"!

Governor Baker declared March "[Massachusetts Maple Month](#)" in an effort to support the Commonwealth's many maple producers and encourage Massachusetts residents to purchase locally-produced maple products. Check out all the March events [here](#), and if you're a maple producer keep reading to find out how you may be able to increase the efficiency of your equipment!

New MFEP Incentive structure, effective March 1, 2016

Incentives for the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program projects [have changed](#) to reflect the current cost of fuels.

The amount of incentives is based on the following funding formula, with incentives not exceeding \$5000 (\$6000 for municipal utility customers) or the total cost of the measure:

- \$0.20 incentive per kWh electricity (\$0.10 for lighting projects)<http://massfarmenergy.com/get-funding/>
- \$1.75 incentive per therm of natural gas
- \$2.50 incentive per gallon of propane
- \$2.00 incentive per gallon of fuel oil
- \$250 incentive per cord of wood

Notably, incentives for all types of electric projects have increased. If you have a lighting, refrigeration, or other kWh saving project you would like help funding, contact us today!

Tips for Saving Energy and Money: Steam Enhanced Units

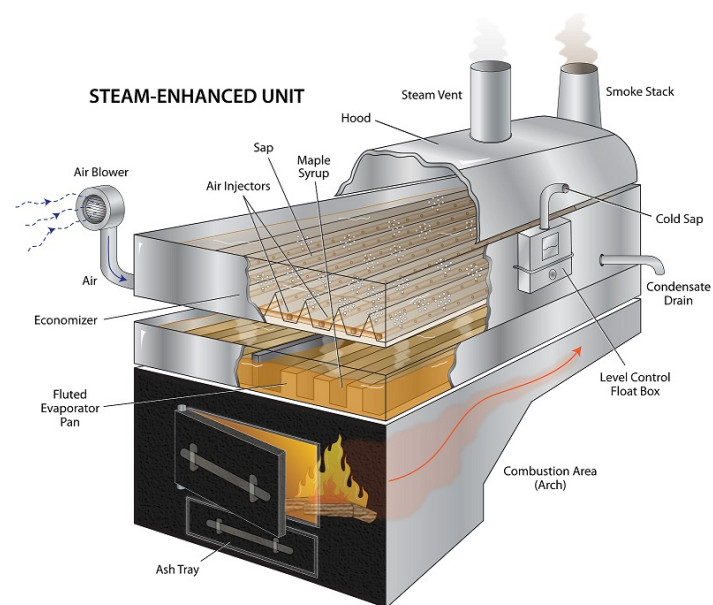


Diagram of a Steam Enhanced Unit

A steam-enhanced unit, or steam pan, can be added to a maple sugar evaporator to increase evaporation rates. A series of small pipes is submersed into shallow V-shaped trays, and filled with cold raw sap. As steam is released, it hits the bottom of the trays, heats the sap, and then condenses back to water and is drained out. In addition, high pressure air is sent through a set of air lines located in the sap, which are used to agitate the sap (making it appear as if it was boiling) and gather humidity. The air will leave the sap at 100% relative humidity, thus eliminating water in the sap at a temperature lower than the boiling point.

This process can increase the sugar content of the sap from 2% to 4% or more by the time it enters the evaporation pan. A steam enhanced unit results in sap that is pre-heated and concentrated before it enters the flue pan, thus reducing the boiling time. The collected condensate can also be used to clean equipment.



Steam enhanced unit, courtesy of the 2016 Mass Maple Month Kickoff Celebration at Stonegate Sugarhouse.

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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