

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

May 2016



Savings are Heating Up!

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!



It's spring, so get moooooooving!

Grant Information & Deadlines

MDAR AgEnergy Grant

The applications for the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Energy Grants are now available on [MDAR's website](#). The deadline for applications is June 8th, and in order to be eligible, the farming operation must have received an energy audit/energy assessment, or demonstrate the initiation of such.

If you are interested in applying and need help funding your audit, the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program has funding to cover up to 75% of the cost! Contact us at 413-717-3090 or info@massfarmenergy.com to get started.

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)

The next REAP deadline for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency grants and loan guarantees is November 2, 2016 for grants of **\$20,000 or less only**. For more information on applying, [click here](#), or contact Megan Denardo of the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (megan.denardo@cetonline.org; 413-727-3090).

REAP Application Assistance

Need help preparing your REAP application? The [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program](#) is able to provide it! Our program is able 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

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 \$8000 (\$10,000 for municipal utility customers) or the total cost of the measure:

- \$0.20 incentive per kWh electricity (\$0.10 for lighting projects, up to \$5000)
- \$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!

Project Highlight - Smith's Country Cheese



Solar Thermal System at Smith's Country Cheese in Winchendon

This year, with funding help from the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Smith's Country Cheese in Winchendon was able to install an 840 square foot solar thermal system. The system saves approximately \$3,368, produces about 117MM BTUs of clean energy, and avoids 28,874lbs of CO2 emissions annually.

Solar thermal systems have long lives if maintained properly, require minimal maintenance, and can either be "open loop," where the solar collectors directly heat the water that is used, or "closed loop," where water is indirectly heated via a heat exchanger. Closed loop systems are more common in cold climates like Massachusetts, since antifreeze is typically needed, and Smith's features a closed loop system.

Solar thermal systems can be greatly applicable to farm operations that require consistent year-round hot water or heat, such as Smith's dairy and cheese making operation. If you are interested in a solar thermal system, or would like more information about the technology, contact the [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program!](#)



Dave Smith, of Smith's Country Cheese, in front of his solar thermal system.

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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