

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

May 2017



May the Savings Be With You!

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! As we move into summer, it's a great time to evaluate the energy used on your farm for cooling.

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

or

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



Lilian Jackman poses among her plants at Wilder Hill Gardens in Conway

News & Events

Agricultural Energy Grant Period is Now Open!

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' Agricultural Energy Grant Program funds agricultural energy projects in an effort to improve energy efficiency and the adoption of alternative energy by Massachusetts farms.

There are two separate grant programs open right now: the traditional Ag Energy Grant, which funds a wide variety of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, and the Special Projects Grant, which funds specific project categories. For a full list of categories, and to download the application, please visit [this page](#).

The deadline for both types, which offer reimbursement grants of up to \$30,000, is June 7th. The grant also requires that farms have an energy audit to be eligible. The Massachusetts Farm Energy program can help you fill out these grant applications, and help fund audits, so call us at 413-727-3090!

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. 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 May and June, including a workshop on no-till gardening, a panel on urban agriculture, and a farm-to-table dinner at Crimson Clover. For the full list and more details, [visit their events page](#).

Grant Information & Deadlines

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Ag Energy Grant

The deadline for this grant is June 7th, which is coming up fast! If you have questions about this grant, or need help with your application, email info@massfarmenergy.com for more details.

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy and energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **October 31, 2017**. For more information on applying, [click here](#). If you have questions about

whether or not REAP is a good fit for your project, e-mail the Mass Farm Energy Program at info@massfarmenergy.com for more details.

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: Energy Projects



Energy efficient lighting at Catlin Farmstead in Winchendon. This lighting upgrade saves over 5000 kWh annually.

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP) has helped over 70 farms implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects since 2014, and you could be next! All types of agricultural producers, from dairies and other livestock farms, to nurseries and greenhouses, to orchards and maple syrup producers, have received assistance from MFEP. Any business commercially involved in agriculture is eligible.

Implemented projects range from energy efficient lighting, heating, and cooling, to solar powered electric and hot water systems, to efficient animal waterers, and even apple drying equipment. The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program is able to coordinate with utility company incentives as well as state and federal grants to help all kinds of farms and all types of energy projects come from idea to implementation in the most cost effective way.

If you have a project in mind, give us a call at 413-727-3090, or email us at info@massfarmenergy.com. We will help you get started, and walk you through the process until your new equipment is up and running!



Roof mounted solar array at Farmer Dave's in Dracut. This array generates over 30,000 kWh per year.

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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