

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

January 2018



New Year, New Opportunities!

Make it your 2018 resolution to make energy improvements on your farm. There are more opportunities available to farms at this time of year than any other. Read on to find out more!

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program has funds to help farms cover audits, as well as energy efficiency and select renewable energy projects. Contact us for more information, or to get started now!

413-727-3090 • info@massfarmenergy.com

or

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



Solar thermal system at Morning Dew Farm in Worthington

News & Events

Solar Hot Water Funding

Does your farm use hot water year round? Would you like to reduce your hot water heating costs? Solar hot water could be the answer! The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center currently has funding to cover a percentage of the cost of solar hot water installations, and federal tax credits for this type of project will decrease soon. This funding can be combined with other farm energy grants, so call the Mass Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090 or [visit our solar hot water page](#) for more information.

CISA Event Calendar

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has information about a plethora of exciting events and workshops happening in January and February on their website, including the NOFA/Mass Winter Conference and a workshop for cheesemaking at home. For the full list and more details, [visit the CISA Events Calendar](#).

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.

Grant Information & Deadlines

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy and energy efficiency grants, and loan guarantees is **April 2, 2018**. 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!](#)

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Grants

The MDAR grant period is fast approaching! Applications will be out this spring, with a submission deadline in June. MFEP advises anyone who wants to apply to start the process now: all MDAR grants require that applicants have an energy audit, so get started now and beat the rush. The Mass Farm Energy Program has funding to help farms cover up to 75% of the cost of an audit.

If you would like to be alerted when the MDAR applications come out, email info@massfarmenergy.com to be placed on our notification list.

Spotlight On: Solar Hot Water



Solar hot water array at Smith's Country Cheese/Otter River Farm in Winchendon

Solar energy can be used for more than just electricity! A solar hot water system captures heat from sunlight and circulates the thermal energy to a water tank. Solar hot water systems reduce the usage of traditional water heating fuels, such as oil, electricity, or propane, saving consumers money on their energy bills.

These systems can provide up to 80% of domestic hot water needs, and incentives of up to \$100,000 are available for qualifying projects. Several farms in Massachusetts have already successfully installed solar hot water systems, including Smith's Country Cheese in Winchendon and Cricket Creek Farm in Williamstown. Each of these systems saves the farms thousands of dollars on water heating annually.

If you are interested in installing solar hot water on your farm, call MFEP at 413-727-3090 or email us at info@massfarmenergy.com. We can help you find an installer, determine which grants are the best fit, apply for them, and guide you through the process from beginning to end.

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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