

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

March 2018



March Into Savings Madness!

Early spring isn't just the time for basketball brackets, it's also the best time to evaluate energy use on your farm and make improvements. There are more opportunities available to farms at this time of year than any other, and the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program can help you make good use of them.

MFEP provides grant application guidance, and 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 electric array at Mountain View Farm in Easthampton

News & Events

REAP and MDAR Grant Webinar Recording

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program recently hosted a webinar which covered the REAP and MDAR grants, including requirements for each and how to apply. If you weren't able to attend, a recording of this webinar [is available here](#) on the MFEP website.

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.

Save the Date!

There will be an informational webinar about solar hot water for farms and businesses on April 5th. More details to follow!

CISA Event Calendar

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has information about a plethora of exciting events and workshops happening in March and April on their website, including workshops about farm marketing plans and the 2018 PVGrows Forum. 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

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Grants

The MDAR grant period is now open! Applications are [currently available on MDAR's website](#) in both Word and PDF formats. **Please note that this year's submission deadline is April 25.**

MFEP advises anyone who wants to apply to begin as soon as possible. We are here to help and can answer whatever questions come up. MDAR grants require that applicants have an energy audit, so call MFEP today to begin the processes of getting yours!

Rural Energy For America Program (REAP) - Deadline Extended

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy & energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees has been **moved back from April 2 to April 30, 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 Massachusetts 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: Justamere Tree Farm



Newly constructed zero net energy maple kitchen at Justamere Tree Farm in Worthington

[Justamere Tree Farm](#) in Worthington recently completed construction on their zero net energy maple kitchen, which includes a solar array and energy efficient heating system. This kitchen has helped the farm expand their operation, and produce their value-added maple products more efficiently. With help from MFEP staff, the farm applied for and was awarded \$40,000 from the MDAR Special Projects Program to help cover the cost of this project.

The Special Projects Program is a part of the MDAR Agricultural Energy Grant that funds specific, higher capital cost, energy saving and energy replacement opportunities that improve energy efficiency and facilitate alternative clean energy needs. The project categories can change from year to year, but this year's still include zero net energy construction, as well as dual use of land solar photovoltaic arrays and heat recovery for anaerobic digesters. The full list can be [viewed here](#).

If you are interested in applying for the Ag Energy Grant, including the Special Projects Program, call MFEP at 413-727-3090 or email us at info@massfarmenergy.com. We can help!



Interior of zero net energy maple kitchen at Justamere Tree Farm in Worthington

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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