

# Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

September 2018



## September Savings Sure are Stellar!

Fall is almost here, which means it's a great time to evaluate heating systems and cold storage on your farm. The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program can help you with this, or any other energy projects you have in mind.

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](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com)

or

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



Solar powered electric fence charger at Craig Memorial Equestrian Center in Leverett. This project was completed with assistance and funding from the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program.

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## News & Events

### REAP Deadline

The 2018 fall REAP deadline is next month! Check out the [Grant Information section](#) below for more about applying.

### 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 September and October on their website, including the 20th Annual North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival and A Celebration of Women in Agriculture. 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](mailto:megan.denardo@cetonline.org). Show other farmers across Massachusetts what you're doing to save energy, and help inspire others to do the same.

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## **Grant Information & Deadlines**

### **Rural Energy For America Program (REAP)**

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy & energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **October 31, 2018**. This round is reserved for projects costing \$80,000 or less, and the maximum grant that can be applied for is \$20,000. For more information on applying, [click here](#). If you have questions about whether or not REAP is a good fit for your project, email the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com) for more details.

### **Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Grants**

The MDAR grant period will re-open in February of 2019.

### **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!](#)

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## **Spotlight On: The Rural Energy for America Program**



REAP Webinar

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program recently hosted a webinar about applying to the Rural Energy for America Program, or REAP, which provides grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

The current REAP deadline is October 31st, for projects of \$80,000 or less. Since REAP covers 25% of total project costs, this means that applicants in this round can request grants of only up to \$20,000. This restricted round encourages smaller projects to apply, but if your project costs more than \$80,000 there will be an unrestricted round in the spring of 2019.

In last spring's REAP round, which awarded over \$300,000 in grant money, nine of the thirteen farms and small businesses that were awarded grants received assistance from the Mass Farm Energy Program. MFEP staff can help you complete the application, gather all necessary attachments and forms, and submit the package. The program also offers assistance with securing the [federal ID numbers](#) required to apply.

If you are interested in applying for the REAP grant, call MFEP at 413-727-3090 or email us at [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com). We are happy to help!

### 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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You are receiving this e-mail because you have requested more information about or are interested in energy efficiency and renewable energy on Massachusetts farms.

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