

# Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

January 2019



## Happy New Year!

A new year means all new opportunities to make energy improvements on your farm. It's also the beginning of grant season! Read on for more details.

MFEP provides grant application guidance, and has funds to help farms cover audits and 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](#)



Roof mounted solar electric array at [Maple Hill Farm](#) in Hardwick. This array produces over 17,000 kWh annually.

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## News & Events

### [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 Pioneer Valley Regional Agricultural Conference and a workshop on improving existing pastures and establishing new ones. For the full list and more details, [visit the CISA Events Calendar](#).

### [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.

### [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

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

The application period for [MDAR's Agricultural Energy Grant](#) will re-open in February. If you are interested in applying for this grant, contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090 for more information or to be placed on a notification list.

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

The next REAP deadline for renewable energy & energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **April 1, 2019**. This round is unrestricted, and open to projects of all sizes. For more information on applying, [click here](#). If you have questions about the REAP grant, email the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com).

### **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: Energy Audits



Roadside booth at Ferrindino Maple in Hampden. Ferrindino Maple received an audit with help from the Mass Farm Energy Program.

Energy Audits are useful planning tools, and are often the first step for farmers interested in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects. Audits provide a snapshot of current farm energy usage and costs. Personalized recommendations give farms an opportunity to compare options by illustrating which upgrades will save the most energy, which have the quickest payback, and which may be eligible for financial incentives. This helps farmers prioritize projects and make decisions about equipment purchases.

Audit calculations are based on farm records and existing conditions, and may be useful as farms change how they work. For example, audits can help predict the energy use change in shifting from growing salad greens to tomatoes in a greenhouse, or increasing the number of taps in a sugar bush.

Furthermore, an energy audit is required before a farm can apply for any MDAR energy grant, as well as for any farm applying to REAP for an energy efficiency project.

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP) provides assistance to farms in both having an audit done and covering the cost. MFEP pays for up to 75% of the cost of the audit, and the applicant farmer covers the remaining percent. We also have an engineering partner we can refer farms to if necessary.

If you are interested in having an audit done, contact the Mass Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090, or [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com). Audit slots fill up fast in advance of the spring grant deadlines, so don't wait. We are happy to help!

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## 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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