

# Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

## November 2019



### Avoid a Deep Freeze in November!

Colder weather is here, which makes November a great month to assess insulation and heating needs on your farm.

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (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](#)



MDAR Alternative Energy Specialist, Gerry Palano (left), CET Program Specialist, Megan Denardo (right), is pictured with farmer Lisa Evans (middle), and , at the ribbon cutting for We Grow Microgreens in Hyde Park. Read on for more about this urban farm!

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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 November and December on their website, including the Shelburne Falls Autumn Market and a workshop on land reparations. For the full list and more details, [visit the CISA Events Calendar](#).

### Call for Spotlights

If you would like to see your farm featured in our newsletter, send us your pictures! We are especially interested in any projects you've done or actions you've taken to increase energy efficiency. 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 fall REAP round is now closed. The next REAP deadline for renewable energy & energy efficiency grants and loan guarantees is **March 31, 2020**. 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).

### Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Grants

The next application period for MDAR's [Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies \(ACRE\)](#) Program will open in spring 2020. If you are interested in applying for this grant, watch this space for more information, or email MFEP to be put on a notification list.

### 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: We Grow Microgreens



Urban Greenhouse at We Grow Microgreens in Hyde Park.

[We Grow Microgreens](#) is an urban grower of microgreens within the city of Boston. On October 30th, the farm hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to showcase their new energy efficient greenhouses and growing operation. The opening was well attended, and guests were encouraged to stroll along the newly built public path through the grounds. From there guests were able to admire the roof of the greenhouse, which supports a small array of solar panels that help power the structure. Another popular highlight of the opening was the variety of dishes being served that featured microgreens, demonstrating the culinary versatility of these plants.

With technical assistance from the Massachusetts Farm energy Program, as well as a 75% cost share of their required audit, We Grow Microgreens was able to secure grant funding from MDAR for constructing the urban greenhouse. The farm was also awarded funds from the City of Boston for creating the public path through the farm. More information about the latter funding can be found [here](#).

If you are interested in greenhouse efficiency, applying for a grant, or having an audit, contact the

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090, or [info@massfarmenergy.com](mailto:info@massfarmenergy.com). 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 the 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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