

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

March 2020



Get Ready for Grant Season

The spring in Massachusetts is not just a time for planting, but also for applying to energy grants!
Read on for more information about these exciting opportunities to improve the energy usage 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

or

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



USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) & MDAR Energy Grants Webinar



*Funding Opportunities for
Renewable Energy
Systems & Energy
Efficiency Improvements*



The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program hosted a webinar in February about applying to state MDAR grants and the federal REAP grant. If you were unable to attend the webinar in person, but would like to view it, click on the picture above. A recording is also available on the [MFEP website](#).

News & Events

CISA Event Calendar

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has information about a plethora of events and workshops happening in March and April on their website, including webinars and updates on events that have been cancelled or postponed. 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. 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 & 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.

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.

Grant Application Assistance

Need help with your REAP or MDAR application? The [Massachusetts Farm Energy Program](#) is able to help farms prepare these applications **at no cost**. REAP applications can be submitted any time, so [contact us now!](#)

Spotlight On: Round Mountain Sugarhouse



New reverse osmosis system at Round Mountain Sugarhouse in Northfield.

[Round Mountain Sugarhouse](#) in Northfield is a maple syrup producer that contacted the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP) for help increasing the efficiency of their operation.

With help from MFEP, Round Mountain Sugarhouse replaced their old reverse osmosis system with a newer, more efficient one. This system, which reduces the amount of energy needed to boil the maple sap into maple syrup, saves the farm over 150 gallons of oil and over \$300 per year.

The sugarhouse also applied for, and was awarded, a \$20,000 MDAR grant, which covered approximately 70% of the cost of the project.

If you are interested in upgrading your maple sugaring equipment, or applying for an MDAR grant, contact the Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at 413-727-3090, or 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 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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