

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

May 2020



Savings Are Still Springing Up!

Even though we are all working a little farther apart this spring, there are still plenty of savings that can be found. Read on for more information about upcoming grant opportunities to improve the energy usage on your farm, as well as some resources for farms during this time of social distancing.

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](#)

Massachusetts Farm Energy Program
Conservation • Efficiency • Renewables

MDAR
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

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

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

The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program hosted a webinar in February about applying to grants, with the second half specifically focused on MDAR grants. 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

COVID-19 Resources

MDAR has compiled a [list of resources](#) for the agricultural community, including information about food safety, farmers' markets, and financial opportunities. The state has also put together a guide on [How and Where to Buy Local](#).

Additionally, the USDA has a page on [services and programs for farms](#) during the Coronavirus pandemic.

CISA Event Calendar

Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA) has updates on events that have been cancelled or postponed. For 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 **October 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 application period for MDAR's [Climate Smart Agriculture Program](#) (CSAP) is now open! This grant combines the Agricultural Climate Resiliency & Efficiencies (ACRE) Grant, the Traditional Ag-Energy Program Grant (ENER), and the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program Grant (AEEP).

The grant deadline has been extended to **June 19**. If you are interested in applying and need help, [email MFEP](#) or call 413-727-3090 with your questions.

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](#)! Staff are working remotely, and happy to help.

Spotlight On: The Herb Farmacy



Roof mounted solar array at The Herb FARMacy in Salisbury

[The Herb FARMacy](#) is a certified organic farm and plant nursery that has been working with MFEP in some capacity since their no-cost walkthrough in 2014.

MFEP helped fund an audit for The Herb FARMacy, which enabled them to apply for both state and federal grants. The farm was awarded both a REAP and MDAR grant to help cover the cost of their solar array, and together these grants made up more than 90% of the cost of the project. The array produces over 13,000kWh for the farm every year!

If you are interested in installing solar, or any other renewable technology, or applying for an MDAR or REAP 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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