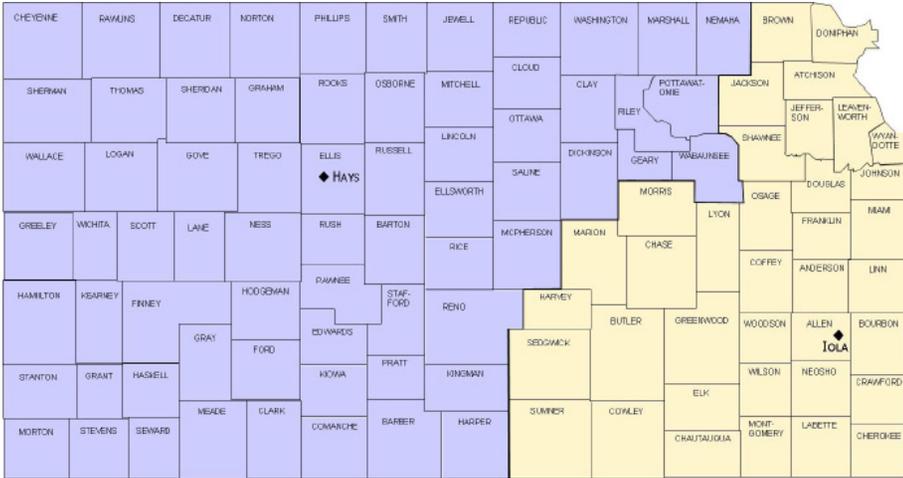


Contact Information

USDA Rural Development Business Programs Area Office Staff in Kansas



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Rural Energy for America Program



Rural Energy for America Program Overview

USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) helps to create renewable energy systems and reduce energy needs of small businesses and agricultural producers in rural areas.

The program offers grant funding for up to 25 percent of a project's total eligible cost. Grants are limited to \$500,000 for renewable energy projects or \$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements. The minimum REAP grant is \$2,500 for renewable energy systems and \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements.

Eligible Applicants

Agricultural producers who gain 50 percent or more of their gross income from agricultural operations are eligible. Small businesses must meet the Small Business Administration's size standards.



Eligible projects must be located in a rural area, which is defined as any city with a population under 50,000 including adjacent urbanized areas.

Eligible REAP Projects

Renewable energy projects that are eligible include:

- Wind
- Solar
- Biomass
- Geothermal
- Hydrogen-based sources

Energy efficiency projects that are eligible include:

- Retrofitting lighting or insulation
- Purchasing or replacing equipment with more efficient units

Most rural projects that reduce energy use and result in savings for the agricultural producers or small businesses are eligible.

ARC Technology, based in south-central Kansas, utilized REAP funding to help install 51 solar panels and microinverters on the company's roof. The business will save approximately \$1,300 per year by using the solar panels.

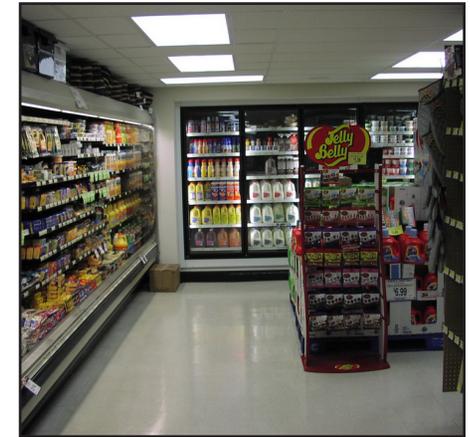
How to Apply for REAP Funding

- Contact your USDA Rural Development Area Office or State Office for help in determining your eligibility.

- Applicants are encouraged to apply early. Priority will be given to applications for grants less than \$20,000 and loan guarantees. Early preparation is the key to success. Applicants should submit well designed renewable energy or energy efficiency improvement projects. An application template is available and will provide applicants an outline of the information required regarding the agricultural or for-profit business operations.

- Make sure your application is complete. Applications that are incomplete will not be considered for funding. Work with your USDA contact to ensure that you have completely filled out the necessary forms and provided the required information.

- If you plan on applying, do not start on your renewable energy or energy-efficient project prior to submitting a complete application to USDA Rural Development. Costs prior to applying are not eligible with the exception of some planning costs.



Eligible rural grocery stores can apply for REAP funding to upgrade refrigeration units to more energy efficient units.

Importance of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects

Renewable energy systems and energy efficiency projects provide a significant opportunity for agricultural producers and rural businesses to increase the economic yield of land, productivity and profitability as well as lowering energy costs. Energy efficiency improvement are a useful tool for increasing farm or business productivity while reducing costs. Farmers, ranchers and small businesses can enjoy savings and increased reliability for years to come by investing in energy-efficient equipment.