



USDA Invites Applications for Renewable Energy for America Program

April 3, 2013: USDA Rural Development announces 2013 funding amount for Rural Energy for America Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the USDA is seeking applications to provide assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Funding is available from USDA's Rural Energy for America Program.

Rural Energy for America Program, authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, (the Farm Bill) provides financial assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses in to purchase, install, and construct renewable energy systems; make energy efficiency improvements to non-residential buildings and facilities; use renewable technologies that reduce energy consumption; and participate in energy audits, renewable energy development assistance, and feasibility studies.

USDA is accepting the following applications:

- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications until April 30,2013
- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications until July 15,2013
- Renewable energy system feasibility study grant applications through April 30,2013

Eligibility:

- Agricultural producers that are directly engaged in the production of agricultural products and obtain at least 50% of gross income from this business
- Rural small businesses as defined by the Small Business Administration's standard and located in a rural area as determined by USDA Rural Development

Grant Amount:

- 25% total project cost, not to exceed \$500,000
- Grant requests for \$20,000 or less are favored

About RER Energy Group (www.rerenergygroup.com). RER is dedicated to providing cost-effective, high quality renewable energy systems. RER offers solar electric, solar hot water and hot air, biodiesel fuel and waste-to-energy systems throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. The company has developed over 6 megawatts of solar energy systems and obtained over \$12 million of grant proceeds for its clients.

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