



U.S. Department of Agriculture

MENU



Biden-Harris Administration Announces Availability of \$1 Billion to Help Farmers, Ranchers and Rural Businesses Invest in Renewable Energy Systems and Energy-Efficiency Improvements

President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act Lowers Energy Costs, Builds America's Clean-Energy Economy in Rural America

PUBLISHED: March 31, 2023

SHARE:



WASHINGTON, March 31, 2023 – U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that USDA is accepting applications starting on April 1 for \$1 billion in grants to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses invest in renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements. USDA is making the \$1 billion in grants available under the [Rural Energy for America Program](#) (REAP), with funding from President Biden's landmark Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combatting the climate crisis.

“Supporting renewable energy and energy-saving systems helps the people of rural America create thriving, livable communities,” Vilsack said. “When we invest in rural communities, we are




U.S. Department of Agriculture

Recipients may use REAP funds to install renewable energy systems or to make energy-efficiency improvements. Eligible applicants include rural small businesses and agricultural producers. USDA will hold competitions quarterly through Sept. 30, 2024. The funding will also include the creation of the first underutilized technology fund in the REAP program, with \$144.5 million available in dedicated funding.

USDA is particularly interested in REAP projects that will help rural communities recover economically through more and better market opportunities and improved infrastructure, reduce climate pollution and increase resilience to the impacts of climate change, conserve and protect farmland, and invest in underserved communities. The program is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's [Justice40 Initiative](#) , which aims to ensure that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved and overburdened by pollution.

To ensure that small projects have a fair opportunity to compete for the funding, USDA will set aside at least 20% of the available funds until June 30 of each year for grant requests of \$20,000 or less, including the grant portion of a combined grant and guaranteed loan request.

The maximum federal share which may be requested is up to 50% of the total project cost for all energy-efficiency projects and zero-emissions renewable energy systems. An award of up to 50% of the total project cost is also available for any project in a designated energy community and/or submitted by an eligible tribal entity. All other projects are eligible to apply for grants of up to 25% of the total project cost. The maximum grant is \$1 million for renewable energy systems and \$500,000 for energy-efficiency projects.

For additional information on application deadlines and submission details, see page 19239 of the March 31 [Federal Register](#) .

Inflation Reduction Act: Background

The Inflation Reduction Act will boost the long-term resiliency, reliability and affordability of rural electric systems. It will help families save money on utility bills, and it will expand rural opportunities in the clean-energy economy.

To subscribe to USDA Rural Development updates, visit [GovDelivery subscriber page](#) .

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



EMAIL:
press@usda.gov

Trending News and Updates

PRESS RELEASE



[U.S. Department of Agriculture Announces 15 Additional States Onboard With National Milk Testing Strategy for H5N1, Shares Update on Vaccination Efforts](#)

January 8, 2025

USDA APHIS Shares Fifteen New States Joining the NMTS and Critical Updates on HPAI Vaccines Across Species

PRESS RELEASE



[USDA Announces Grants and Technical Assistance Funding for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)

January 8, 2025

USDA is providing a total of \$14.4 million in grants and technical assistance through two separately funded projects.

[Learn More](#) →



U.S. Department of Agriculture



[USDA, USTR Announce Appointments to Seven Agricultural Trade Advisory Committees](#)

January 8, 2025

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai today announced the appointment or reappointment of 53 members to serve on seven agricultural trade advisory committees.

[Learn More](#) →

[Biden-Harris Administration Advances Agricultural Exports In Support of The U.S. Economy](#)


January 8, 2025


Biden-Harris Administration Advances Agricultural Exports in Support of the U.S. Economy Fact Sheet


[Learn More](#) →

AskUSDA

One central entry point for you to access information and help from USDA.

 [Ask.USDA.gov](#)

 1-833-ONE-USDA

 AskUSDA@usda.gov





U.S. Department of Agriculture

Policy and Statements

- [Accessibility Statement](#)
- [Anti-Harassment Policy](#)
- [Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#)
- [Information Quality](#)
- [Non-Discrimination Statement](#)
- [Open Government at USDA](#)
- [Plain Writing](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Vulnerability Disclosure Policy](#)

Resources

- [Careers](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Federal Website Inventory](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [No FEAR Act Data](#)
- [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights \(OASCR\)](#)
- [Report Fraud on USDA Contracts](#) 
- [Sitemap](#)
- [USDA Performance](#)
- [Whistleblower Protection Coordinator](#) 

Sign up for Email Updates

[Sign Up](#)




Help us improve USDA.gov!

USDA is currently seeking your opinion on our site via a 5-minute survey.

[Take the Survey](#) 

Related Sites

- [AskUSDA](#)
- [Farmers.gov](#) 
- [National Agricultural Library](#)



U.S. Department of Agriculture

White House 