## Oregon Rural and Agricultural Energy Assistance Program

REDUCE Service REDUCE REDUCE

IMPROVE energy efficiency







email: <u>ORAEA.Team@energy.oregon.gov</u> phone: 503-378-4040 Energy is critical to the operations of Oregon's agricultural producers and rural small businesses - from powering irrigation and dryers to buildings and cold storage. The energy to run operations is often a major expense, so improving equipment and operational efficiency can lead to significant monthly utility bill savings.

An energy assessment (also sometimes called an energy audit) can help identify potential areas of improvement and prioritize energy projects based on cost, savings, and payback period. To date, energy assessments have ranged between \$4,000 and \$8,500 - but don't let these costs be a barrier to you making your business more energy efficient!

The Oregon Department of Energy has \$100,000 available through a USDA Renewable Energy Development Assistance grant to help fund energy assessments for agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Agricultural producers and rural businesses can receive a grant which covers up to 75 percent of the total cost of the energy assessment. The Energy Trust of Oregon also has incentives available to help cover the remaining cost if you are served by one of the utilities they represent.

An assessment is also often the first step required for federal, local, or utility energy grants or other types of funding. A REDA energy audit or assessment is required for a USDA REAP grant application that can cover up to 50 percent of project costs.

Interested farms, ranches, and rural businesses are encouraged to contact ODOE and provide high-level information about their operation. Agency staff will follow up and work with potential recipients to determine if the energy assistance program is a good fit, and will help schedule an assessment with an experienced energy auditor based on the auditor's expertise, geographic area, and availability.

More information – including how to sign up for program updates and responses to Frequently Asked Questions about the program – is available on ODOE's website.

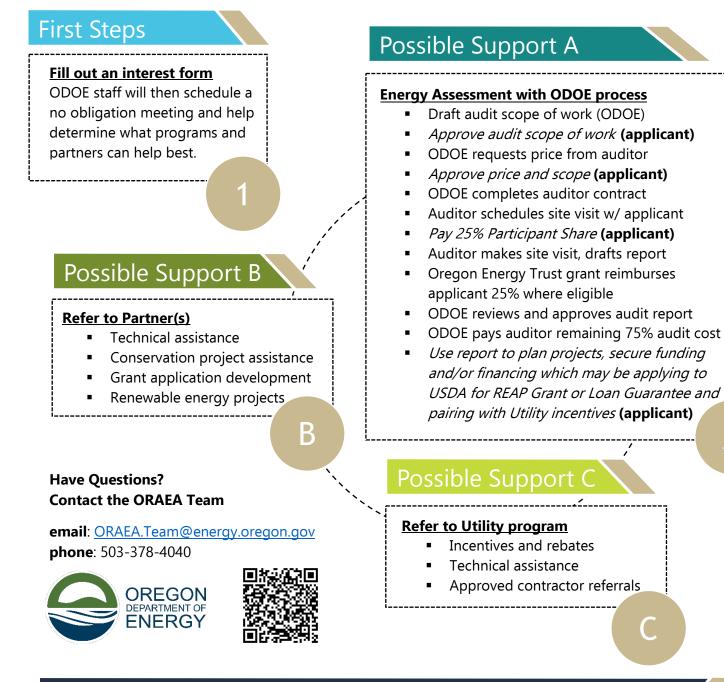
https://tinyurl.com/ODOE-Rural-Audit-Program

Oregon Department of Energy, 550 Capitol St. NE, 1st Floor, Salem, OR 97301

## Oregon Rural & Agricultural Energy Assistance Program Process

for Eligible Rural Small Businesses and Agriculture Producers

## Save \$ on Utility Bills | Replace Equipment | Sustainability, Energy Efficiency, & Resilience



## USDA REAP Grant and Loan Guarantee Funding

- USDA Rural Development operates the <u>Rural</u> <u>Energy for America Program</u>
- Grants for up to 40% eligible project costs
- Loan guarantees for up to 75% eligible project costs and up to 50% awarded quarterly
- Contact <u>USDA Rural Development</u> before applying: <u>elizabeth.draves@usda.gov</u>
- Grant application development assistance available
- An energy assessment is required for energy efficiency improvement projects
- Project must generate or save energy
- Project technical details need to be fully developed before applying