

# Oregon Rural and Agricultural Energy Assistance Program

REDUCE   
operating costs

IMPROVE   
energy efficiency

ASSISTANCE  
available 

**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>

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# 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

## First Steps

### **Fill out an interest form**

ODOE staff will then schedule a no obligation meeting and help determine what programs and partners can help best.

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## Possible Support B

### **Refer to Partner(s)**

- Technical assistance
- Conservation project assistance
- Grant application development
- Renewable energy projects

B

## Possible Support A

### **Energy Assessment with ODOE process**

- Draft audit scope of work (ODOE)
- *Approve audit scope of work (applicant)*
- ODOE requests price from auditor
- *Approve price and scope (applicant)*
- ODOE completes auditor contract
- Auditor schedules site visit w/ applicant
- *Pay 25% Participant Share (applicant)*
- Auditor makes site visit, drafts report
- Oregon Energy Trust grant reimburses applicant 25% where eligible
- ODOE reviews and approves audit report
- ODOE pays auditor remaining 75% audit cost
- *Use report to plan projects, secure funding and/or financing which may be applying to USDA for REAP Grant or Loan Guarantee and pairing with Utility incentives (applicant)*

A

## Possible Support C

### **Refer to Utility program**

- Incentives and rebates
- Technical assistance
- Approved contractor referrals

C

### **Have Questions?**

**Contact the ORAEA Team**

email: [ORAEA.Team@energy.oregon.gov](mailto:ORAEA.Team@energy.oregon.gov)

phone: 503-378-4040



## USDA REAP Grant and Loan Guarantee Funding

- USDA Rural Development operates the [Rural Energy for America Program](#)
- Grants for up to 50% eligible project costs
- Loan guarantees for up to 75% eligible project costs and up to 50% awarded quarterly
- Contact [USDA Rural Development](#) before applying: [Serena.Vigg@usda.gov](mailto:Serena.Vigg@usda.gov)
- **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