

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 typically cost between \$6,000 and \$10,000 – 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 have up to 75 percent of the total cost of the energy assessment paid for by the grant. Energy Trust of Oregon has incentives available to help cover the remaining cost if a business is served by one of the utilities Energy Trust represents.



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 may cover up to 50 percent of eligible project costs.



Interested farms, ranches, and rural businesses are encouraged to fill out ODOE's [interest form online](#) with contact information and a summary of their operation and potential energy project(s). 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>

