



Funding Options for Clean Energy on a Livestock Farm

Consideration	Utility Rebates	USDA NRCS EQIP	USDA RD REAP	MDA Livestock Reinvestment	Property Assessed Clean Energy
1. Type of Clean Energy	Energy Efficiency	Energy Efficiency	Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy	Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy	Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy
2. Compatibility with other funding	Use with any other fund.	Use EQIP Audit funding with utility rebates or REAP. Cannot use EQIP project funding with REAP.	Use with utility rebate. Cannot use with EQIP project funding.	Use with any other fund.	Use with any other fund. Cash flow positive. Money saved by energy savings pays loan.
3. Eligibility	Customer of electric utility that has available rebate program.	Own or operate on agricultural land and compliant with Farm Bill.	Located in a rural area (population less than 50,000). Agriculture produces at least 50% of income or rural small business.	Raises livestock in Minnesota (25% of gross income from agriculture) with an interest in improving livestock production.	Legal owner of property. Current on mortgages. Not in bankruptcy. No liens. Located in a city or county that has adopted PACE.
4. Funding amount	Varies by utility. Usually there is a dollar amount per kW or kWh saved. Some utilities can go as high as 50% of the project.	CAP #128 AgEMP Audits: approx. 100% Project cost-share: approx. 35-60% of lamp or fixture cost	Grants: minimum request of \$1,500 up to 25% of project costs. Guaranteed Loans: up to 75% of project costs.	Awards are 10% of a project's cost with a minimum total project cost of \$4,000 and a maximum of \$500,000.	Cannot exceed 20% of Property Market Value (PMV). For RMEB PACE program, minimum \$5,000 and maximum \$100,000. For SPPA PACE, minimum \$2,500.
5. Funding timing	Discuss funding amount with utility before starting project. Receive payment within a few weeks after completing and paying for the project. Start project <u>any time</u> you wish.	Funding approved two weeks after applying for CAP #128 AgEMP Audit or for project financial assistance. Conduct audit or start project <u>after funding is approved</u> .	Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) will identify timing and will be released soon (anticipating a Feb 2015). Start project <u>after application is submitted</u> for grant or loan.	Funding typically awarded in February each year. Start project <u>after grant is awarded</u> .	Process may take a few months to prepare loan terms. Start project <u>after loan terms defined</u> .
6. Competitiveness of funds	No competition	Slightly competitive: Applications are ranked relative to other applications submitted. Projects with higher energy savings are selected over those with lower energy savings.	Competitive: Applications are scored individually. Highest scored projects are awarded the available funds.	Not very competitive: Historically, most applications get funded.	No competition
7. Application timing	Anytime	Accepted continuously. Next application cut-off date is November 20, 2015.	Accepted continuously. Submit grant applications by May 2, 2016 for next round of funding.	Grant applications accepted from August 17 to December 18, 2015.	Accepted continuously.



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8. Level of effort to apply	Easy: Relatively quick & easy application process; rebates are granted after installation.	Moderately Easy: You receive individual assistance in completing paperwork from USDA staff.	Moderately Easy: An 8-page application can be completed on your own or by a grant writer.	Easy: A 7-page application can be completed on your own.	Easy: Quick & easy 2 to 4-page application.
9. Minimum requirement for energy evaluation before project	Varies by utility. Usually the assessment and calculations suggested in Steps 2 and 3 of this campaign are acceptable.	EQIP Audit (called a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) #128 Agricultural Energy Management Plan-(AgEMP)) completed by a NRCS-approved Technical Service Provider	Energy assessment report conducted by an experienced energy professional that: 1) assesses energy cost and efficiency by analyzing energy bills and briefly surveying the lighting, 2) identifies savings and cost analysis of low/no-cost measures, 3) estimates overall costs/energy savings and payback in years.	None specific to energy. However, referencing an energy assessment or audit would strengthen application.	Energy audit by an approved energy auditor must be completed prior to submitting application.
10. Period that application is considered "live" for funding	Not applicable	2 years: Applications not funded in current fiscal year funding cycle may be retained upon applicant request for consideration in the next federal fiscal year.	2 years	Only during period in which submitted.	Not applicable
11. Funding expiration	Not applicable. If utility rebate monies are exhausted in the current year, utilities may carry over the rebate application into the following year.	CAP #128 AgEMP Audit – must <u>conduct audit within 1 year</u> of funding approval. Project Financial Assistance – energy audit findings valid for five years. Must <u>complete project within 1 year</u> of funding approval.	Must <u>complete project within 2 years</u> of funding awarded.	Must incur expenses and submit for reimbursement by June 30 of the year following receipt of award. (e.g., if awarded 2/2014, reimbursement grant expires 6/30/2016)	Not applicable
12. Reporting	No	No	Report energy savings for 2 years.	No	No
13. More info	Contact electric utility provider	www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/programs/financial/?cid=nrcs142p2_023506	bit.ly/usdareap	www.mda.state.mn.us/livestockinvestmentgrant	www.mncerts.org/pace