



## Farming and Energy Use Series

# Funding for Your Energy Projects

Interested in funding for your energy efficiency or renewable energy project? You have options! Many programs offer grants or loans for farm energy improvement projects. Note: Funding availability may be subject to change. Be sure to check the websites or contacts for the most up-to-date information.

## State Funding for Energy Projects

### For energy-efficient pollution prevention equipment or processes, or natural resource protection projects:

- Program: DEP Small Business Advantage Grant Program
- Who can apply: Pennsylvania for-profit small businesses, including farms, with 100 or fewer full-time employees
- Grant amount: 50 percent match, up to a max of \$7,000. Funding is available first come, first served.
- Example: Use SBAG funds to offset the purchase of an energy-efficient grain dryer.
- More info: Contact the Small Business Ombudsman Office at 717-772-5160 or visit [www.dep.pa.gov/smallbusinessadvantagegrant](http://www.dep.pa.gov/smallbusinessadvantagegrant)

### For energy efficiency, waste reduction, or pollution prevention equipment:

- Program: DEP Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account Loan Program
- Who can apply: Pennsylvania for-profit small businesses, including farms, with 100 or fewer full-time employees
- Loan amount: Up to 75 percent of project cost or \$100,000 max at 2 percent fixed interest rates for up to 10 years. Loans are available first come, first served.
- Example: Use a PPAA loan to offset the purchase of an efficient chiller.
- More info: Contact the Small Business Ombudsman Office at 717-772-5160 or visit [www.dep.pa.gov/smallbusinessadvantagegrant](http://www.dep.pa.gov/smallbusinessadvantagegrant)

### For cleaner, alternative fuel on-road vehicles and their refueling infrastructure:

- Program: DEP Alternative Fuels Incentive Grants
- Who can apply: Pennsylvania businesses, including farms, to purchase an electric, natural gas, propane, or biodiesel (B20 or greater) vehicle and/or fueling infrastructure.
- Grant amount: A proportion of the additional costs of the alternative fuel vehicle versus a gas or diesel engine vehicle and the refueling infrastructure. Funding is awarded on merit.
- Example Use AFIG funds to offset the purchase of a propane-powered truck for hay deliveries.
- More info: [www.dep.pa.gov/alternativefuelsincentivegrant](http://www.dep.pa.gov/alternativefuelsincentivegrant)



### Sustainability on the Farm: Snyder County

This anaerobic digester at a farm in Snyder County breaks down organic matter, such as manure, to produce biogas (principally methane) in a sealed tank. The biogas is used to generate electricity for their hog barns, with the excess electricity generated being sold onto the electric grid. Projects such as this one may be eligible for REAP or other funding.

#### Did you know

Although Rural Electric Cooperatives aren't required by PA law to provide energy efficiency and conservation programs, they may on occasion have funds available. It doesn't hurt to call and ask!

#### Want more information?

##### Contact:

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**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

## For electric vehicle chargers:

- Program: DEP Driving PA Forward Rebate Program
- Who can apply: Pennsylvania businesses, including farms, nonprofit organizations, and local governments.
- Rebate amount: 50–90 percent of project cost, for the purchase and installation of a level 2 charge for electric vehicles (at least two plugs required). Rebates are available first come, first served.
- Example: Use a rebate to offset the purchase and installation of a level 2 charger at your farm market for customers to use.
- More info: visit <https://gis.dep.pa.gov/DrivingPAForward/>

## Federal Funding for Energy Projects

### For development of an Agricultural Energy Management Plan:

- Program: Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Who can apply: Farmers and ranchers.
- Funding amount: Cost-share amounts and practices vary from year to year. Once an AgEMP audit or other qualifying energy audit has been completed, producers can also apply for funding assistance for the purchase, installation, or retrofit of certain buildings or equipment to improve energy efficiency.
- Example: Use EQIP funds to offset the costs of efficient ventilation and fans for your barns.
- More info: Contact your local NRCS office or visit <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/pa/energy/>

### For purchase or installation of renewable energy systems or energy-efficiency improvements:

- Program: Rural Energy for America Program
- Who can apply: Agricultural producers and rural small businesses.
- Funding amount: Loan guarantees on loans up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs. Grants for up to 25 percent of total eligible project costs. Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75 percent of total eligible project costs.
- Example: Use REAP funds to offset the costs of installing efficient irrigation pumps.
- More info: Contact USDA Rural Development or visit <https://www.rd.usda.gov/pa>

## Resources from Your Utility Company

These large electric distribution companies are required by state law to provide energy efficiency and conservation programs to their customers: Duquesne Light, West Penn Power, Penn Power, Met-Ed, Penelec, PPL Electric, and PECO.

They offer rebates for energy-efficient farming equipment. Amounts vary depending on your rate schedule and proposed project. Seek pre-approval before purchasing equipment to ensure it's eligible. More info: Contact your utility directly.

## For clean energy and clean water projects:

The Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program offers property owners low-interest, long-term loans. C-PACE is available in several counties, and the list of counties keeps growing. More info: <https://pennsylvaniacpace.org/>

## More Funding Sources

### For innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy projects:

- Metropolitan Edison Company and Pennsylvania Electric Company Sustainable Energy Fund: <https://bccf.org/sustainable-energy-fund>
- Sustainable Energy Fund of Central Eastern Pennsylvania: <https://www.theseef.org/>
- Sustainable Development Fund: [https://www.reinvestment.com/initiatives/clean\\_energy/sdf/](https://www.reinvestment.com/initiatives/clean_energy/sdf/)
- West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund: <https://www.wppsef.org>

## Don't forget federal tax credits

Solar, geothermal, and wind energy technologies qualify for federal tax credits. Amounts vary year to year. Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for up-to-date information.

