

U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for \$1 billion in grants to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses invest in renewable energy systems and make energy-efficiency improvements. USDA is making the \$1 billion in grants available under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), with funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in combatting the climate crisis.

“Supporting renewable energy and energy-saving systems helps the people of rural America create thriving, livable communities,” said USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. “When we invest in rural communities, we are supporting hard work that sends a ripple effect across our country. Clean energy is critical to the future of our economy.”

Recipients may use REAP funds to install renewable energy systems or to make energy-efficiency improvements. Eligible applicants include rural small businesses and agricultural producers. USDA will hold competitions quarterly through Sept. 30, 2024. The funding will also include the creation of the first underutilized technology fund in the REAP program, with \$144.5 million available in dedicated funding.

For additional information on application deadlines and submission details, see page 19239 of the March 31 Federal Register.