



# Rural Development Energy Programs

Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop, March 28-30, 2022

# Rural Development Energy Programs

- [Advanced Biofuel Payment Program](#)
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- [Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program](#)
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- [\*\*Rural Energy Pilot Program\\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audits & Renewable Energy Development Grants\\*\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans & Grants\\*\*\*](#)



# Rural Energy Pilot Program (REPP)

- Provides community-scale renewable energy benefits and assistance to underserved rural communities through Rural Energy Community Partnerships (RECPs)
- RECPs can be comprised of nonprofit organizations, state organizations, federally-recognized Tribes, municipalities and other public bodies
- Cost-share grants for up to 80 percent of total eligible project costs, not to exceed \$2 million
- Priority is given to distressed and high energy-burden communities, in which households spend a greater proportion of their income on energy costs compared to the average U.S. household



## Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loans & Grants

- Provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements
- 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% of total eligible project costs
- Renewable Energy System Grants: \$2,500 minimum - \$500,000 maximum
- Energy Efficiency Grants: \$1,500 minimum - \$250,000 maximum.





# REAP Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants

- Provides grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance (REDA) to eligible agricultural producers and rural small businesses
- Grants are provided for energy audits, renewable energy, technical assistance, and renewable energy site assessments
- Eligible applicants include the following:
  - State, Tribal, or local government entities
  - Land-grant colleges or universities, or other higher education institutions
  - Rural electric cooperatives
  - Public power entity Resource
  - Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils
- The maximum aggregate amount of an energy audit and REDA grant in any given fiscal year is \$100,000



# Energy Program Project Examples

Success stories offer an opportunity to showcase the impact Rural Development and its programs have on the lives of people



# REAP Loan Guarantee: BMR Donoe Solar, LLC

- **\$6.5 million investment**
- Construction funds for a 6-6.3 MW solar farm
- Located on St. Thomas, USVI
- Estimated to produce 10,359,000 kWh per year, which is enough electricity to power 1,800 homes on the island
- Loan Term: 21 years
- Interest Rate: 6.75%





# REAP Loan Guarantee: Spanish Town Estate Solar I, LLC

- **\$3.25 million investment**
- 17-acre solar farm located in St. Croix, USVI
- Used to refinance a bridge loan, to complete repairs caused by the hurricanes, and for the purchase of 4 MW ac Solar System
- Estimated to produce 8,300,000 kWh per year, is enough electricity to power about 300 homes
- Loan Term: 20 years
- Interest Rate: 6.83%





# Other Rural Development Business Programs

Increasing Economic Opportunity through Support for Rural Businesses

# Rural Development Support for Businesses

## **Business and Industry Loan Guarantees:**

- Financial backing to start or expand rural businesses. Loans are made by participating local lenders and guaranteed by USDA

## **Intermediary Relending Program:**

- Loans to local intermediaries that re-lend to businesses and for community development projects

## **Rural Businesses Development Grants:**

- Technical assistance and training, such as project planning and feasibility studies, for small and emerging businesses

## **Value-Added Producer Grants:**

- Help farmers and ranchers add value to their products through new processing methods or tap into new markets



# Examples of Business Program Projects



1. Subbase Drydock, Inc., St. Thomas
2. Tramway Properties, LLC, St. Thomas
3. Abacus International, LLC, St. Croix
4. Caribbean Crane and Rigging, St. Croix



*(Left to Right, Top to Bottom)*

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