



## What you can do to start saving money and prepare for the Mass Farm Energy Program — at no cost to you!

**1. Get signed up or renew your application for the MA Farm Energy Discount program:** Subject to certification by the Mass Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), persons or corporations determined to be principally and substantially engaged in production agriculture or farming for commercial purposes may be eligible for a 10% discount on electric & gas rates. A two-page application is available at <http://www.mass.gov/agr/admin/farmenergy.htm> or contact Linda Demirjian, Office Manager, MDAR, at (617) 626-1733.

**2. Non municipal customers - Request an energy audit and incentive information** from your utility or energy efficiency providers. Don't wait! A new funding year started January 1, 2008 and you are competing with the commercial sector. These energy assessments could possibly be used for application to USDA-RD programs.

**3. Municipal utility customers – Contact your provider(s)** because you may have access to a fee for service energy audit, *which could possibly be used for application to USDA-RD programs.*

### **4. USDA GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

✓ **Rural Development's Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program.** Farmers and rural small businesses in USDA "eligible rural areas" can apply for a grant, a guaranteed loan, or a combination to purchase renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. Grant requests (to RD) must not exceed 25% of the eligible project costs. Renewable energy grants can range from \$2,500 to \$500,000, and can be combined with Mass Technology Collaborative grants. Energy efficiency grants can range from \$1,500 to \$250,000, and can be combined with non-municipal incentive programs. **By combining grant programs you can receive cost share of up to 50% or more.** Projects under \$200,000 qualify for a simplified application process. **In anticipation of the Funding Notice (expected in March), you should verify eligibility and determine what level of energy assessment and environmental review may be required.** This process may be lengthy so RD will advise you on how to get the environmental review started. Program information may be obtained on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farmbill/index.html>. **Please note that the energy generated or saved by the 9006 program cannot be for residential use. The cost of installing an electrical meter to separate farm use from residential use would be an eligible project expense. Apply on-line for grant writing assistance provided by Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D at [http://berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/forms/grant\\_writing\\_req.php](http://berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/forms/grant_writing_req.php).**

✓ **Rural Development's Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG)** may be used for planning activities and for working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy. Visit the VAPG web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> which contains guidance and application templates (which are strongly recommended). \$18.4 million is available nationally and applications are to be submitted to USDA-RD State Offices instead of the National Office by 3/31/08.

**5. Research the Mass Technology Collaborative's Renewable Energy programs.** Although there are numerous farmers investing in renewable and alternative energy projects, there are **many more who could be taking advantage of renewable energy programs administered by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC).** A new initiative, Commonwealth Solar, provides rebates through a non-competitive application process for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) projects. Non-residential PV projects are eligible for rebates for up to 500 kilowatts (kW). Commonwealth Solar has \$68 million available for funding over the next four years to support PV installations. MTC's Small Renewables Initiative (SRI) provides rebates for the installation of wind and small hydroelectric projects that are up to 10 kW. The SRI distributes approximately \$3.6 million of rebates each year through FY2010. Rebates will be provided on a "first come - first served" basis. MTC's Large Onsite Renewables Initiative (LORI) grants are awarded for feasibility studies and design & construction projects of systems greater than 10 kW. Prior to submitting a LORI application, each applicant must secure a consulting team. The applicant (and project site) for MTC programs must be a customer of a Massachusetts investor-owned electric distribution utility.

**6. Visit Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D** at <http://www.berkshirepioneerccd.org> to get the latest information about the Mass Farm Energy Program. Sign up to receive email notification about updates to the program. Apply on-line for grant writing assistance for the RD energy programs at [http://berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/forms/grant\\_writing\\_req.php](http://berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/forms/grant_writing_req.php). Also, please complete the on-line questionnaire that will assist in developing the program. Find the questionnaire at <http://berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/forms/questionnaire.php>.

## For general information and support . . .

**CONTACT Massachusetts Farm Energy Program** at <http://berkshirercc.org/mfep/index.php>.

✎ c/o **Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development**, 433 West St., #8, Amherst MA 01002 Ph: 413-256-1607

Darlene Monds: [darlene.monds@ma.usda.gov](mailto:darlene.monds@ma.usda.gov) Ann Gibson: [agibson.rcc@verizon.net](mailto:agibson.rcc@verizon.net)

✎ c/o **Patriot Resource Conservation & Development**, 319 Littleton Rd., #302, Westford MA 01886

Ph: 978-692-1904, Stephanie Wilsen: [stephanie.wilsen@ma.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.wilsen@ma.usda.gov)

**CONTACT** Gerry Palano, **Renewable Energy Coordinator, MDAR**, 251 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston MA 02114

Ph: 617-626-1706, [gerald.palano@state.ma.us](mailto:gerald.palano@state.ma.us)

**CONTACT** Charles W. Dubuc, Business & Cooperative Programs Specialist, **USDA/Rural Development**, 60 Quaker Lane, #44 Warwick RI 02886

Ph: 401-826-0842 Fx: 401-828-6042 [charles.dubuc@ma.usda.gov](mailto:charles.dubuc@ma.usda.gov)

**VIEW** the first issue of *Live Wire*, the Mass Farm Energy Program quarterly newsletter, posted on the Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D website:

<http://berkshirercc.org/mfep/newsletters.php>

## For energy conservation & efficiency programs . . .

**Cape Light Compact:** Maggie Downey, PO Box 427/SCH, Barnstable MA 02630, [mdowney@barnstablecounty.org](mailto:mdowney@barnstablecounty.org), 508-375-6636

**Bay State Gas Co.:** Partners in Energy Intake Center, 300 Friberg Parkway, Westborough MA 01581, [www.baystategas.com](http://www.baystategas.com), 800-232-0120

**Berkshire Gas:** Ken Sadlowski, 115 Cheshire Rd., Pittsfield, MA 01201, [ksadlowski@berkshiregas.com](mailto:ksadlowski@berkshiregas.com), 413-445-0345

**National Grid:** Michael Pace, 52 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Waltham MA 02415, [mpace@keyspanenergy.com](mailto:mpace@keyspanenergy.com), 781-466-5637

**NSTAR Electric & Gas:** W. Hugh Gaasch, One NSTAR Way, SVV 360, Westwood MA 02090, [w.hugh.gaasch@nstar.com](mailto:w.hugh.gaasch@nstar.com), 781-441-8706

**Fitchburg Gas & Electric/UNITIL:** Ed Mailloux, 6 Liberty Lane W., Hampton NH 03842, [mailloux@unitil.com](mailto:mailloux@unitil.com), 603-773-6541

**Western MA Electric Co (WMECO):** Robert Dvorchik, 333 West St., Pittsfield MA 01201, [dvorcrr@nu.com](mailto:dvorcrr@nu.com), 413-499-9004

## For grant programs . . .

**Massachusetts Technology Collaborative/Renewable Energy Trust (renewable energy)**

Jon Abe, 75 North Drive, Westborough MA 01581, [abe@masstech.org](mailto:abe@masstech.org), 508-870-0312 x 216

**USDA/Rural Development (energy efficiency & renewable energy programs)**

✎ **Western Massachusetts** (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties)

Peter Laurenza, Area Director Ph: 413-585-1000 x4 Fx: 413-586-8648 <mailto:peter.laurenza@ma.usda.gov>

✎ **Central Massachusetts** (Worcester, Middlesex, Suffolk and Essex Counties)

Lyndon S. Nichols, Area Director Ph: 508-829-4477 x4 Fx: 508-829-3721 [lyndon.nichols@ma.usda.gov](mailto:lyndon.nichols@ma.usda.gov)

✎ **Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod & the islands** (Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth, Dukes, Nantucket & Barnstable Counties)

Thomas S. McGarr, Area Director (West Wareham) Ph: 508-295-5151 x3 Fx: 508-291-2368 [tom.mcgarr@ma.usda.gov](mailto:tom.mcgarr@ma.usda.gov)