



What you can do to start saving money and participate in the Mass Farm Energy Program

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. Get an energy audit and implement at least some of the recommendations:

• **Investor-owned Utility Customers**

○ First, contact your investor-owned utility (electric or natural gas – contact info on reverse) about their audit and incentive program, which might offer energy audits/assessments as well as financial incentives for energy efficiency measures. These energy assessments *could possibly* be used for application to USDA-RD programs (see below). Details at <http://www.berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/existing.php#public>

○ **If your electric and/or gas utility audit programs do not address the majority of your energy needs, apply for an audit and/or incentive through the MFEP Audits & Incentives Program.** Details at <http://www.berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/energy.php>

○ **Municipal Utility Customers**

○ First, contact your provider because you may have access to a fee for service energy audit, which *could possibly* be used for application to USDA-RD programs. Go to <http://www.berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/existing.php#municipal> for more information.

If your municipal utility does not address the majority of your energy needs, apply for an audit and/or incentive through the MFEP Audits & Incentives Program. Details at <http://www.berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/energy.php>

3. Leverage funding from other programs: MFEP can help you access these programs which help farmers with energy costs.

USDA REAP Program: The 2008 Farm Bill provides funding for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements to farmers and rural small businesses, administered through USDA/Rural Development. Learn more about the REAP programs at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html>. The Massachusetts Farm Energy Program with support from the MA Woodlands Institute and Rural Development, offers **grant writing assistance** to farmers and forest products businesses interested in applying to this program. To apply for grant writing assistance go to http://www.berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/forms/grant_writing_req.php

Mass Technology Collaborative's (MTC) Renewable Energy programs. MTC's Commonwealth Solar (<http://www.masstech.org/solar/>) has \$68 million available over the next four years and provides rebates through a non-competitive process for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) projects. MTC's Large Onsite Renewables Initiative (LORI) (http://www.masstech.org/renewableenergy/large_renewables.htm) offers competitive grants for feasibility studies and design & construction projects of systems greater than 10 kW. The next round of LORI applications will likely be due spring of 2009. The applicant (and project site) for MTC programs must be a customer of a Massachusetts investor-owned electric distribution utility.

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).

NEW! MFEP Audits and Incentives Program. The MFEP seeks applications from farmers across Massachusetts interested in receiving energy audits and implementing the recommendations of the audits. The MFEP will make referrals to existing audit and incentive programs, provide "targeted" energy audits and/or renewable energy assessments, and provide up to \$7,500 in financial incentives for implementation of audit recommendations. Go to <http://www.berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/energy.php> for complete information and to apply.

Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) of the MA Department of Ag Resources: While primarily a water quality program, AEEP will also fund practices that promote energy efficiency, conserve water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Farmers selected to participate are reimbursed for the approved costs of materials up to \$25,000. A minimum of a 5% match is required of applicants. Most awards are in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range. <http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/aEEP/index.htm>

4. Stay abreast of farm energy information and funding sources at Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D: Go to the MA Farm Energy Program pages at <http://www.berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/index.php> to get the latest information about the Mass Farm Energy Program.

– See reverse for additional Contact Information –

Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D ♦ MA Farm Energy Program ♦ 433 West St. Amherst MA 01002
413.256.1607 ♦ www.berkshirepioneerccd.org/mfep/index.php

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For general information and support ...

<http://berkshirerpiioneercd.org/mfep/index.php>

CONTACT Massachusetts Farm Energy Program

- ✎ **WEBSITE:** full information at <http://berkshirerpiioneercd.org/mfep/index.php>.
- ✎ **BY MAIL:** Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development, 433 West St., #8, Amherst MA 01002
- ✎ **BY PHONE:** 413-256-1607
- ✎ **BY EMAIL:** Darlene Monds: darlene.monds@ma.usda.gov Ann Gibson: agibson@berkshirerpiioneercd.org
- ✎ **Patriot Resource Conservation & Development**, 319 Littleton Rd., #302, Westford MA 01886, Ph: 978-692-1904
Stephanie Wilsen: 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

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

For investor-owned utility audit & incentive programs ...

Cape Light Compact: Vicki Marchant, Superior Court House, PO Box 427, Barnstable, MA 02630 vmarchant@capelightcompact.org, 508-744-1278, fax 508-362-4136

Bay State Gas Co.: Partners in Energy Intake Center, 300 Friberg Parkway, Westborough MA 01581, www.baystategas.com, 800-232-0120

Berkshire Gas: Ken Sadlowski, 115 Cheshire Rd., Pittsfield, MA 01201, ksadlowski@berkshirereg.com, 413-445-0345

National Grid: Michael Pace, 201 Jones Rd., Waltham MA 02451, michael.pace@usngrid.com 781-907-1610

NSTAR Electric & Gas: W. Hugh Gaasch, One NSTAR Way, SW 360, Westwood MA 02090, w.hugh.gaasch@nstar.com, 781-441-8706

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

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

For grant programs ...

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative/Renewable Energy Trust (renewable energy)

Elizabeth Kennedy at 508-870-0312, ext. 1241 or kennedy@masstech.org, 75 North Drive, Westborough MA 01581

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 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

✎ **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

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