



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, June 11, 2008—Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr announced today that 19 organizations in five states have been selected to receive more than \$1 million in grants and loans to promote the use of renewable energy and increased energy efficiency in farm and business operations. The funds are being provided under USDA Rural Development's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (Section 9006) program.

“These projects will provide significant, long-term energy savings and assist producers involved in competitive endeavors,” Dorr said. “America has the most productive farmers and small business operators in the world, and programs like these help them keep that edge.”

The funding announced today will support a variety of energy production and energy-saving efforts. For example, the family-owned Three Corner Field Farm, in Shushan, N.Y., will receive a \$17,500 grant and a matching loan guaranteed by USDA Rural Development to purchase a 10 kilowatt solar electric system which is expected to replace an estimated 25 percent of the energy currently used on the farm. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority is providing a \$40,000 incentive award as part of the project. Tri-J Inc. of Sioux City, Iowa will use a \$28,154 grant and matching loan to buy and install energy efficient refrigerators and freezers, and add insulation to an existing building. Other grants and loans announced today will be used to purchase new efficient grain dryers, which will provide energy savings to producers of up to 67 percent. A complete list of the selected projects is available at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency loan and grant program was established under Section 9006 of the 2002 Farm Bill to encourage agricultural producers and rural small businesses to install renewable energy systems and energy efficient improvements. The program's funding can support a wide range of technologies encompassing biomass (including anaerobic digesters), geothermal, hydrogen, solar, and wind energy, as well as energy efficiency improvements. Funding of individual recipients is contingent upon their meeting the conditions of the award agreement.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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