

# 2008 Farm Bill Energy Title:

## Investing in Renewable Energy Programs to Promote Energy Independence

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- Provides an overall \$1 billion to fund programs in the energy title that will leverage renewable energy industry investments in new technologies and new feedstocks
- Includes \$320 million in loan guarantees for biorefineries producing advanced biofuels
- Provides \$35 million for a new program to help existing ethanol facilities reduce their fossil fuel use
- **Creates the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to provide \$250 million in grants and loan guarantees for agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements**
  - Includes grant funds for organizations with energy expertise to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses in performing energy audits
  - Assists agricultural producers and rural small businesses in planning and preparing feasibility studies for projects supported by the Rural Energy for America Program
- **Provides \$120 million for the Biomass Research and Development Program**
  - Coordinates research and development activities, including improvements in feedstock development and the efficiency of biofuel production
- **Funds the Bioenergy Program at \$300 million**
  - Provides incentives for expanding production of advanced biofuels made from agricultural and forestry crops and associated waste materials, including animal manure and livestock/food processing waste
- **Creates a Biomass Crop Assistance Program to develop the next generation of feedstocks for renewable energy**
  - Encourages the production of feedstocks for cellulosic ethanol and other energy production and provides for multi-year contracts for crop and forest producers to grow dedicated energy crops
  - Provides incentives for producers to harvest, store, and transport biomass to bioenergy facilities
- **Establishes a sugar-to-ethanol program**
  - Provides sugar to biofuel producers at competitive prices
  - Specifies that sugar would be provided for biofuel production only during times of excess sugar supply
- **Provides \$9 million for the Biobased Markets Program authorizing eligible producers to label biobased products as a 'USDA Certified Biobased Product'**
  - This provision also sets a federal procurement preference for biobased products, to encourage the purchase of products that are comprised of a greater percent of biobased material.
- **Funds the Biodiesel Education Program with \$5 million to help educate government and private owners of vehicle fleets about the benefits and technical aspects of biodiesel.**