



OFFICE OF RURAL
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Where rural Texas comes first.



Rick Perry
Governor

Charles S. (Charlie) Stone
Executive Director

Executive Committee
Michael Waters, Chair

David Alders
Charles N. Butts
Nicki Harle
Carol Harrell

Wallace Klusmann
Lydia Rangel Saenz
Ike Sugg
Patrick Wallace

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Texas Can Help You and Your Community Develop Your Renewable Energy Resources

Texas has more potential than any other state to produce renewable energy from the sun, the wind, crops and crop and forest wastes. And most of this potential exists in rural communities. Texas already is #1 in producing electricity from wind power. This development has re-energized many West Texas communities with new jobs, new tax revenues and landowner royalties for farmers and ranchers. Now, we're moving forward to develop our solar, biomass and geothermal resources. The state offers programs that can help make Texas the nation's renewable energy leader.

ORCA's New Renewable Energy Pilot Project

Up to \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds have been designated to help eligible rural communities install their own renewable energy projects. Examples of eligible projects include installing wind turbines or solar panels to power wastewater treatment or water treatment facilities.

For more information, contact Travis Brown, ORCA renewable energy specialist at Office of Rural Community Affairs, (512) 936-7878 or email at tbrown@orca.state.tx.us.

Texas Biofuels Producer Incentive Program

Producers of ethanol and biodiesel can receive a 20 cent per gallon incentive through this program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture. The incentive is limited to the first 18 million gallons produced annually state-wide for 10 years.

For more information, call (877) 428-7848 or visit www.agr.state.tx.us.

Texas Agricultural Biomass & Landfill Diversion Incentive Program

The Legislature this year created a \$20 per ton incentive for forestry wastes and other biomass used to generate electricity. If signed by Gov. Perry, this legislation will provide an incentive for farmers, loggers and others to gather and deliver wood and crop wastes to power plants that burn biomass to generate electricity.

For more information, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture at (877) 428-7848.

Texas Capital Fund & Texas Enterprise Fund

Grants are available through these two programs to help bring to Texas new renewable energy industries that create substantial new job opportunities. The Capital Fund uses Community Development Block Grant money to help fund construction of roads, water lines and sewer lines for renewable energy projects such as ethanol plants.

For more information on the Capital Fund, see www.orca.state.tx.us or www.agr.state.tx.us or call (877) 428-7848.

For more information on the Enterprise Fund, see www.governor.state.tx.us or call (512) 936-0101.

Several state tax exemptions or deductions exist for purchasers of home or business solar panels or other renewable energy equipment. For details, see: www.dsireusa.org.

Selected Federal Programs

Federal grants and loans also are available for renewable energy projects through the USDA, Dept. of Energy, and the Economic Development Administration.

More money is expected to be made available, especially as Congress develops the 2007 Farm Bill. See: <http://www.infinitepower.org/incentives.htm>.

The Clean Renewable Energy Bond program provides interest free loans to towns, counties and rural electric cooperatives to install renewable energy projects. For more information, see www.elpc.org/energy/farm/crebs.php.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture offers grants and loans for farm and rural business-related renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through its Section 9006 and Value-Added Producer Grant programs. See: www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/.

Main Office

P.O. Box 12877
Austin, TX 78711

1700 N. Congress Ave., Ste 220
Austin, TX 78701

Phone: 512-936-6701

Fax: 512-936-6776

Toll Free: 800-544-2042

Email: orca@orca.state.tx.us

Web: www.orca.state.tx.us

Alice:

Bedias:

Kountze:

LaGrange:

Field Offices

361-661-1665

936-395-2456

409-246-8547

979-968-6764

Levelland:

Nacogdoches:

Sweetwater:

Vernon:

806-897-1113

936-560-4188

325-236-9672

940-553-3556