



Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Electric Utilities and Co-ops

Protect the environment, strengthen the grid, reduce energy use and costs

USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service provides low-cost, long-term financing to rural electric utilities and electric co-ops for generation, transmission, and distribution facilities in rural areas, including renewable energy providers. Generating power from renewable energy can help protect the environment by reducing CO2 emissions, strengthen the grid, and provide your customers with new options for energy-efficient, affordable electricity.

What types of renewable energy projects are eligible?

- Solar
- Wind
- Hydroelectric
- Biomass
- Geothermal

Who can apply?

Most retail or power supply providers, such as:

- State and local government entities
- Federally recognized Tribes
- Nonprofits including co-ops and limited dividend or mutual associations
- For-profit corporations and limited liability companies

What type of financing is available?

- **Low-interest loans**
- **Loan guarantees**

What are the benefits?

Renewable energy projects:

- Enhance the grid
- Provide affordable, reliable electricity
- Diversify the energy supply
- Protect the environment
- Help create new jobs and other economic opportunities in rural areas
- Help meet Federal and State environmental requirements

How do we get started?

- Applications for electric loans are accepted year-round
- Contact a RUS **General Field Representative** to get started with your renewable proposal
- **Program resources** like forms, guidance, certifications, etc., are online
- Apply online with "**RD Apply**"

Who can answer questions?

- Contact the **GFR** who serves your area
- Or call the RUS Electric Program at 202-720-0848

What law governs the program?

- **Rural Electrification Act of 1936**, as amended
- **Code of Federal Regulations**



Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Electric Utilities and Co-ops

Electric Program renewable energy and energy-efficiency fast facts

- From 2009-2015, the RUS Electric Program invested **\$1.1 billion for 26 renewable energy projects**.
- The projects generate enough electricity to **power about 244,600 homes** every year.
- And they kept **more than 1.8 million metric tons of CO2** out of the atmosphere – comparable to **taking 306,500 cars per year off the roads**.

RUS offers an **energy efficiency program** for electric borrowers to help them implement energy efficiency programs.

- Through 2016, the RUS Electric Program has invested **\$56.6 million** for energy efficiency.

Solar projects

Create energy through solar photovoltaic panels that convert sunlight into usable solar electricity.

Wind projects

Convert wind energy into electricity using utility-scale wind turbines.

Hydroelectric projects

Produce electric power using falling or flowing water. Hydroelectric is the largest source of renewable power in the U.S.

Biomass projects

Generate carbon-neutral electricity from renewable organic waste that otherwise would be dumped in landfills, burned, or left as fodder for forest fires. Biomass power plants use wood waste to make electricity.

Geothermal projects

Convert thermal energy from the earth's core into electric power.

Energy Efficiency

Low-cost financing for **energy efficiency and conservation**, including demand-side management and off-grid renewable energy systems, to keep electricity affordable and promote economic development.

To learn more:

- Visit the **RUS Electric Program website**
- Contact the **GFR** who serves your area
- Call the RUS Electric Program at 202-720-0848

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.

NOTE: Because citations and other information may be subject to change please always consult the program instructions listed in the section above titled "What Law Governs this Program?" You may also contact your **local office** for assistance. You will find additional forms, resources, and program information at www.rd.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.