

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Farmstead Energy Improvement (374)

The farmstead energy improvement standard is applied as part of a conservation management system to reduce energy use. The practice entails developing and implementing farmstead improvements to increase energy efficiency measures which reduce on-farm energy use. Improvements may include replacing or retrofitting agricultural equipment systems and/or related components or devices.

Practice Information

Farmstead energy improvement is used exclusively to implement recommendations for components of a current energy audit performed in accordance with the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers ANSI/ASABE Standard S 612, Performing On-farm Energy Audits. The practice applies to any agricultural equipment system, nonresidential structure or component that consumes energy as long as that system or component has been identified in an acceptable on-farm energy audit as defined above.

Replacement or retrofit system and related components or devices must meet or exceed currently applicable Federal, State and local standards and guidelines, as well as appropriate NRCS or industry standards. Examples of NRCS standards include Conservation Practice Standards 533, Pumping Plant, and 372, Combustion System Improvement. Examples of industry standards that may be applied under this standard include American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers Standard 90.1-2010, ASABE EP 406.4, and National Electrical Manufacturers Association Motor Efficiency Standards.



Applications covered by this practice may include but are not limited to automatic environmental controllers, insulation, circulation fans, plate coolers, heat recovery systems, efficient lighting fixtures and systems to improve the efficiency of maple syrup production.

Operation and maintenance requirements will include periodic inspections with prompt repair of damaged components and monitoring to ensure the continued success of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

Farmstead Energy Improvement (374) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Pumping Plant (533), Combustion System Improvement (372), and Critical Area Planting (342).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.