

Business and Farm Energy Planning

***Luther College, Winneshiek Energy District, and Clean Energy Districts of Iowa
USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)***

What Is The Energy Planning Program?

The Business and Farm Energy Planning Program is funded by a grant from the USDA Rural Energy for America Program. It provides technical assistance to eligible farms and small businesses in nine counties in northeastern Iowa and two counties in southeastern Minnesota. Local Energy Districts collaborate with Winneshiek Energy District and Luther College to:

1. Conduct outreach to identify farmers and small business owners motivated to learn about and invest in cost-effective energy efficiency and solar energy projects.
2. Conduct high-quality technical assistance - energy auditing and planning - that pinpoints cost-effective clean energy opportunities, identifies financial assistance options, and assists in getting practices and projects implemented.
3. Works with the participant to share their story with peers and the community, to build awareness and momentum towards locally-owned clean energy prosperity.

How It Works

1. Sign up for the program on the next page. (Funds are limited. Applicant eligibility is outlined on the next page.)
2. If enrolled, an Energy Auditor/Planner will be in touch to collect information on your operation and goals, conduct a site visit, and follow up to discuss the results and cost-effective opportunities for energy efficiency and/or solar energy.
3. As you make decisions about what practices to implement and when, local Energy Districts and other partners will be in touch to discuss sharing opportunities, such as video stories, field days, efficiency tours, or other activities that work for you.

Required Cost-Share

The energy audit and investment plan are comprehensive of all energy sources and uses, and include solar site assessment if desired. Grant funds cover 75% of the cost, but USDA program rules require participants to pay 25% cost-share for the audit and planning process. The **participant cost** varies depending on scale and complexity of the business:

- \$250 for most small businesses (under 20,000 sf and \$20,000 in total annual energy expenses); \$500 - \$750 for larger or more complex commercial establishments
- \$600-800 for most farm operations; \$850-\$1,000 for larger or more complex farms

Questions from potential participants should be directed to Joel Zook, Lead Energy Planner, joel@energydistrict.org, 563-380-7137.



Business and Farm Energy Planning Participant Application

Applicant Information

Farm/Business Name	
Owner Name	
Farm/Business street address	
Mailing address (if different)	
Phone	Email
County: <input type="checkbox"/> Allamakee <input type="checkbox"/> Clayton <input type="checkbox"/> Delaware <input type="checkbox"/> Dubuque <input type="checkbox"/> Fayette <input type="checkbox"/> Fillmore <input type="checkbox"/> Houston <input type="checkbox"/> Howard <input type="checkbox"/> Jackson <input type="checkbox"/> Jones <input type="checkbox"/> Winneshiek	

Program rules require that participants must either be a 1) Agricultural Producer (an individual or entity with over 50% of their income from the sale of agricultural products) OR 2) a rural small business. Rural small businesses, as defined by SBA, are generally under 500 employees located in a non-metro county or rural part of a metro county. In most cases, non-profit entities are ineligible. For more information on program requirements, energydistrict.org/energyaudit

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Certifications

Applicant is:

- ☐ An eligible rural small business OR agricultural producer
- ☐ Willing to pay 25% cost-share upon delivery of energy audit report
- ☐ Interested in practice/project implementation, not only information gathering
- ☐ Willing to lead by example and partner on successful partner outreach

Applicant Energy Information

Electric Utility
Total estimated monthly/annual electric costs
Gas/Propane Utility
Total estimated monthly/annual gas/propane costs
Water Utility (if applicable)
Total estimated monthly/annual water costs

Signature

Date