



*National Association of
State Energy Officials*

NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Webinar: State Roles in Bolstering Agricultural Energy Efficiency



April 29, 2025

Agenda

- NASEO Opening Remarks
- Oregon Department of Energy
 - Tom Elliott, Energy Analyst (moderator)
- New York State Energy Research Authority
 - Jessica Zweig, Project Manager, Industrial and Agriculture Group
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
 - Kristen Boysen, Managing Director, Ag Drought and Climate Office
- Audience-led Q&A and discussion

NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Meeting: State Energy Office Approaches to the Energy-Agriculture Nexus (June 2023)



RI Agricultural Energy Program

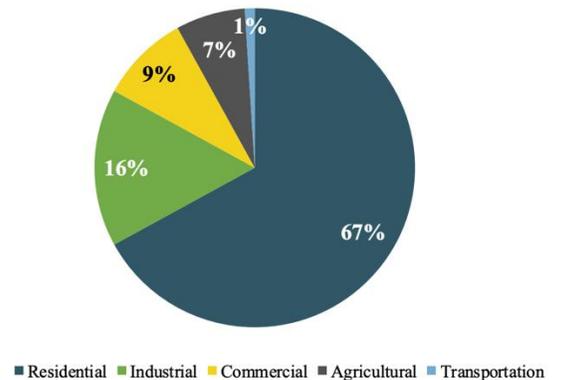
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources' Point of Contact: Abbie Hasenfus



Situation

- Focus on Energy seeks ways to encourage rural customer participation and economic development
- Crop drying contributes to variable propane usage, which poses an energy assurance concern
- Limited funds available to support propane efficiency

Wisconsin Liquefied Petroleum Use by Economic Sector



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, <https://www.eia.gov/state/seds/seds-data-complete.php?sid=WI#Consumption>

Wisconsin Public Service Commission Office of Energy Innovations' Point of Contact: Kari Heinrich

Federal and State Opportunities, Announcements

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture Provides Project Plan Revision Guidance for REAP, NewERA, and PACE Programs
 - On March 26, 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that previously obligated funding under the Rural Energy For America Program (REAP), Empowering Rural America (New ERA) and Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) programs would be released. The guidance instructs recipients to review and voluntarily revise project plans to align with the current administration's priorities within 30 days. While the initial 30-day deadline has passed, the deadline has been extended for another month. The revision form can be found [here](#).
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Agriculture and Rural Businesses Energy Incentive Program Open for Applications
- Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources Agricultural Energy Grant Program Open for Applications
- Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources Accepting Applications for Government Leading by Example Program

Contact Us

Staff Contact: Jasmine Xie (jxie@naseo.org)

NASEO's Rural Energy Working Group This webpage includes slides and recordings from all past webinars and announcements and registration information for upcoming Working Group webinars.

State and Territory Energy Offices and NASEO Affiliate Partners are welcome to join the Rural Energy Working Group membership. Please reach out if you would like to be added to our email list.



NYSERDA's Energy Efficiency Programs for Agriculture

Jessica Zweig

Jessica.Zweig@nyserda.ny.gov

April 29, 2025



NYSERDA
New York State Energy Research
and Development Authority

50 YEARS 1975-2025

AGRICULTURE ENERGY AUDIT PROGRAM

Offering:

Free, on-farm energy audits

Opened:

March 2016

1,935 applications

12% attrition rate

~110 duplicate farms

46% dairies



<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Assistance/Agriculture-Energy-Audit>

ENERGY-RELATED BEST PRACTICES FOR FARM MANAGEMENT

Need for Best Practices

Use of contractors

Sectors covered: dairies, greenhouses, livestock, crops and vegetables, grain processing, maple sugaring, orchards and vineyards, poultry and eggs, and cross-farm sector

<https://agenergyny.org/>

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Assistance/Energy-Best-Practices-for-Agriculture>



REAP TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REAP application assistance



Goals:

assist 136 farms total

energy efficiency applications

<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Assistance/REAP-Technical-Assistance-Program>

NYSERDA's Agricultural Energy Efficiency Programs

A photograph of a large dairy farm with many cows in a barn. The cows are lined up in a long row, and the barn has a high ceiling with many lights. The image is slightly faded and serves as a background for the text.

Jessica Zweig

Jessica.Zweig@nysera.ny.gov

518-862-1090 x3346

nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Agriculture-Energy-Assistance

Photo by Tatum Chase



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Energy Program

Colorado Department of Agriculture



CO Dept of Agriculture

The *mission* of the Department of Agriculture is to strengthen and advance Colorado agriculture; promote a safe and high-quality food supply; protect consumers; and foster responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

Our *vision* is that Colorado agriculture be strong and vibrant, a key driver of the state's economy, and recognized worldwide for its safe and abundant supply of high-quality food and agriculture products.

CDA's Energy Program

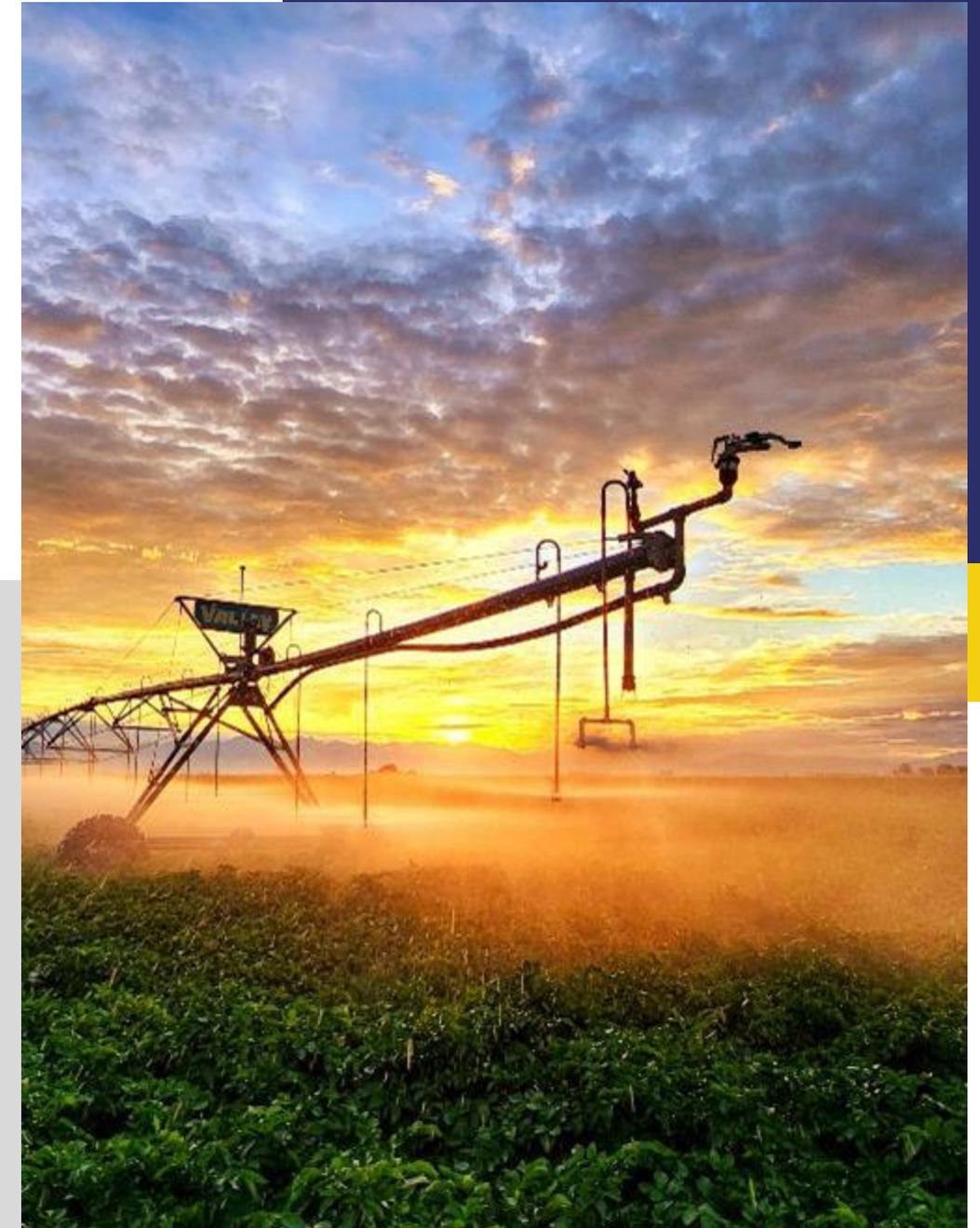
CDA's Energy Programs support farmers and ranchers to reduce energy costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and become more resilient.

Current Programs:

ACRE3. On-farm renewable energy and energy efficiency matching grant.

REAP Technical Assistance. Supporting producers applying for Federal Energy Grants

Agrivoltaics R&D. Demonstration, research, and outreach on agrivoltaics



State Partners

Colorado Energy Office

- Leading the state charge on climate mitigation and clean energy transition
- Colorado Solar for All

Dept of Natural Resources

- Energy and Carbon Management Commission
- Solar siting and wildlife and water impacts
- State Land Board energy leases

Dept of Local Affairs

- Climate Resiliency Office, including Resilient Communities and Rural Prosperity
- Increasing local capacity for resilient energy infrastructure

Funding Partners

USDA- REAP

- Rural Energy for America
- Renewable energy & energy efficiency
- Great relationship with state office

USDA- EQIP

- NRCS program
- Mostly irrigation/ efficiency projects
- Need to be approved practices, but can provide cost-share

Collective Clean Energy Fund

- Colorado's green bank
- Good financing terms
- Can help with upfront costs and tricky contracting situations

ACRE3

On-farm renewable energy and energy efficiency projects

Technology agnostic

Focused on economically sustainable projects



Since 2015

- 187 projects funded
- \$10,870,000 total project costs
- 27 counties included
- 9,956 kw RE capacity
- \$715,000 annual cost savings
- 6,880 tons annual CO₂e reductions

ACRE3 Eligibility

- CO ag producers or businesses
- Annual energy costs >\$4,800
- On-farm only (no excess generation)
- Up to 50% cost share
- \$100,000 max per project
- Reimbursement basis
- Stackable with REAP, utility rebates, and tax credits



ACRE3 Application Process

Phase 1: Free Assessment (\$5,000 value)

- Efficiency: Energy Audit & Plan
- RE Development: Feasibility Study

Phase 2: Project Development

- Validate project bids
- State registration
- Financing, contracts, permits, & engineering

Phase 3: Installation & Reimbursement

- Installation & project support
- Certification
- Reimbursement



Other Programs: REAP TA

CDA and team can help producers apply for USDA Rural Develop Rural Energy for America Program.



Other Programs: Agrivoltaics R&D Grant

Annual Grant for Agrivoltaics research and demonstration projects, including construction, outreach, technical assistance, and planning.



Other Programs: Ag Climate Resilience Grant

NEW grant for farmers and ranchers to increase resilience to climate disasters. Direct funding for on-the-ground projects.



Photo by Allison Porter



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Questions?

Kristen Boysen
Managing Director
Ag Drought & Climate Resilience Office

kristen.boysen@state.co.us