



## What you can do to start saving money and prepare for the Mass Farm Energy Program — *at no cost to you!*

**1. Get signed up or renew your application for the MA Farm Energy Discount program:** Subject to certification by the Mass Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), persons or corporations determined to be principally and substantially engaged in production agriculture or farming for commercial purposes may be eligible for a **10% discount on electric & gas rates**. A two-page application is available at <http://www.mass.gov/agr/admin/farmenergy.htm> or contact Linda Demirjian, Office Manager, MDAR, at (617) 626-1733.

**2. Non municipal customers - Request an energy audit and incentive information** from your utility or energy efficiency providers. Don't wait! A new funding year started January 1, 2008 and you are competing with the commercial sector. *These energy assessments could possibly be used for application to USDA-RD programs.*

**3. Municipal utility customers – Contact your provider(s)** because you may have access to a fee for service energy audit, *which could possibly be used for application to USDA-RD programs.*

**4. Research USDA-Rural Development's Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program.** Farmers and rural small businesses in USDA "eligible rural areas" can apply for a grant, a guaranteed loan, or a combination to purchase renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. Grant requests (to RD) must not exceed 25% of the eligible project costs. Renewable energy grants can range from \$2,500 to \$500,000, and can be combined with Mass Technology Collaborative grants. Energy efficiency grants can range from \$1,500 to \$250,000, and can be combined with non-municipal incentive programs. **By combining grant programs you can receive cost share of up to 50% or more.** Projects under \$200,000 qualify for a simplified application process. **In anticipation of the Funding Notice (expected in March), you should verify eligibility and determine what level of energy assessment and environmental review may be required.** This process may be lengthy so RD will advise you on how to get the environmental review started. Program information may be obtained on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/farbill/index.html>. **Apply on-line for grant writing assistance provided by Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D at [http://berkshirerurdev.org/mfep/forms/grant\\_writing\\_req.php](http://berkshirerurdev.org/mfep/forms/grant_writing_req.php).**

**5. Research the Mass Technology Collaborative's Renewable Energy programs.** The Small Renewables Initiative (SRI) provides rebates for the installation of renewable energy projects that are up to 10 kilowatts. The applicant (and project site) must be a customer of a Massachusetts investor-owned electric distribution utility. SRI distributes approximately \$3.6 million of rebates each year through FY2010. Rebates will be provided on a "first come – first served" basis. Large Onsite Renewables Initiative (LORI) grants are awarded for feasibility studies and design & construction projects of systems greater than 10 kW. **MTC is now accepting applications for LORI. The deadline for submission is February 21, 2008 at 4pm.** Prior to submitting a LORI application, each applicant must secure a consulting team. For more information visit <http://www.mtpc.org/renewableenergy/index.html>.

**6. Visit Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D at <http://www.berkshirerurdev.org> to get the latest information about the Mass Farm Energy Program.** Sign up to receive email notification about updates to the program. Apply on-line for grant writing assistance for the RD energy programs at [http://berkshirerurdev.org/mfep/forms/grant\\_writing\\_req.php](http://berkshirerurdev.org/mfep/forms/grant_writing_req.php).

Also, please complete the on-line questionnaire that will assist in developing the program. Find the questionnaire at <http://berkshirerpcd.org/mfep/forms/questionnaire.php>.

## For general information and support . . .

**CONTACT** Massachusetts Farm Energy Program at <http://berkshirerpcd.org/mfep/index.php>.  
✍ c/o Berkshire-Pioneer Resource Conservation & Development, 433 West St., #8, Amherst MA 01002  
Ph: 413-256-1607  
Darlene Monds: [darlene.monds@ma.usda.gov](mailto:darlene.monds@ma.usda.gov) Ann Gibson: [agibson.rcd@verizon.net](mailto:agibson.rcd@verizon.net)  
✍ c/o Patriot Resource Conservation & Development, 319 Littleton Rd., #302, Westford MA 01886  
Ph: 978-692-1904, Stephanie Wilsen: [stephanie.wilsen@ma.usda.gov](mailto:stephanie.wilsen@ma.usda.gov)

**CONTACT** Gerry Palano, Renewable Energy Coordinator, MDAR, 251 Causeway St., Suite 500, Boston MA 02114  
Ph: 617-626-1706, [gerald.palano@state.ma.us](mailto:gerald.palano@state.ma.us)

**CONTACT** Charles W. Dubuc, Business & Cooperative Programs Specialist, USDA/Rural Development, 60 Quaker Lane, # 44 Warwick RI 02886 Ph: 401-826-0842 Fx: 401- 828-6042 [charles.dubuc@ma.usda.gov](mailto:charles.dubuc@ma.usda.gov)

**VIEW** the first issue of *Live Wire*, the Mass Farm Energy Program quarterly newsletter, posted on the Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D website: <http://berkshirerpcd.org/mfep/newsletters.php>.

## For energy conservation & efficiency programs . . .

**Cape Light Compact:** Maggie Downey, PO Box 427/SCH, Barnstable MA 02630  
[mags@cape.com](mailto:mags@cape.com), 508-375-6636

**Bay State Gas Co:** Derek Buchler, 300 Friberg Parkway, Westborough MA 01581  
[dbuchler@nisource.com](mailto:dbuchler@nisource.com), 508-836-7344

**Berkshire Gas:** Ken Sadlowski, 115 Cheshire Rd., Pittsfield, MA 01201  
[ksadlowski@berkshiregas.com](mailto:ksadlowski@berkshiregas.com), 413-445-0345

**Keyspan/National Grid:** Michael Pace, 52 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Waltham MA 02415  
[mpace@keyspanenergy.com](mailto:mpace@keyspanenergy.com), 781-466-5637

**National Grid:** Mark Siegal, 55 Bearfoot Rd., Northboro MA 01532  
[mark.siegal@us.ngrid.com](mailto:mark.siegal@us.ngrid.com), 508-421-7296

**NSTAR Electric & Gas:** W. Hugh Gaasch, One NSTAR Way, SW 360, Westwood MA 02090  
[w.hugh.gaasch@nstar.com](mailto:w.hugh.gaasch@nstar.com), 781-441-8706

**Fitchburg Gas & Electric/UNITIL:** Ed Mailloux, 6 Liberty Lane W., Hampton NH 03842  
[mailloux@unitil.com](mailto:mailloux@unitil.com), 603-773-6541

**Western MA Electric Co (WMECO):** Robert Dvorchik, 333 West St., Pittsfield MA 01201  
[dvorcrs@nu.com](mailto:dvorcrs@nu.com), 413-499-9004

## For grant programs . . .

**Massachusetts Technology Collaborative/Renewable Energy Trust (*renewable energy*)**  
Jon Abe, 75 North Drive, Westborough MA 01581, [abe@masstech.org](mailto:abe@masstech.org), 508-870-0312 x 216

**USDA/Rural Development** *(energy efficiency & renewable energy programs)*

✎ **Western Massachusetts** (Berkshire, Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Counties)

Peter Laurenza, Area Director Ph: 413-585-1000 x4 Fx: 413-586-8648 [peter.laurenza@ma.usda.gov](mailto:peter.laurenza@ma.usda.gov)

✎ **Central Massachusetts and North Shore** (Worcester, Middlesex, Suffolk, and Essex Counties)

Lyndon S. Nichols, Area Director Ph: 508-829-4477 x4 Fx: 508-829-3721 [lyndon.nichols@ma.usda.gov](mailto:lyndon.nichols@ma.usda.gov)

✎ **South Eastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and the Islands**

(Bristol, Norfolk, Plymouth, Dukes, Nantucket and Barnstable Counties)

Thomas S. McGarr, Area Director (West Wareham) Ph: 508-295-5151 x3 Fx: 508 291-2368 [tom.mcgarr@ma.usda.gov](mailto:tom.mcgarr@ma.usda.gov)