



April 29, 2011

www.mass.gov/agr

USDA Rural Development has Announced the Opening of the 2011 Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Some major changes are as follows:

1. The rural area restriction for ag-producer applicants has been removed. Small business applicants must still be in rural areas.
2. The purchase & installation of flexible fuel pumps for gas stations are an eligible REAP purpose.
3. Application deadline for all REAP applications is June 15th, 2011. You may submit prior to however.
4. The citizenship requirement has been removed although the business must still be in the U.S.
5. The demonstrated financial need requirement has been removed.
6. EE projects grant requests will be reduced by a prorated replacement capacity factor.

Most smaller applications will compete at the state level. Once all of our state allocation of funding is utilized, the remaining applications will compete at the national level. [Click here for the formal announcement in the Federal Register](#). For applications and information to apply, please contact your local USDA Rural Development (RD) [office](#).

MDAR's Energy Efficiency, Conservation, and Renewables Program page:
www.mass.gov/agr/programs/energy

Specialty Crop Block Grant Announcement

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) will be accepting proposals for projects that wish to be part of the United States Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. A copy of the request for proposals, which includes timelines and

requirements, can be found on the Department's homepage www.mass.gov/agr or direct link [here](#). All proposals will be due to the Department by 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2011.

MDAR will be conducting two informational sessions about this grant program on the following dates:

May 2, 2011: 10:00am to noon at the State Farm Bureau Office 249 Lakeside Avenue, Marlboro. Directions:

From Route 495 North Or South, Take Exit 24A onto Route US 20 East. Building is there immediately on the left in front of the Holiday Inn.

May 3, 2011: Noon to 2 pm at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources' Amherst Office located at 101 University Drive, Amherst.

Directions: <http://www.mass.gov/agr/about/directions.htm>

Please RSVP to Daniel Rhodes at Daniel.Rhodes@state.ma.us, 617-626-1728, if you are planning to attend one of these sessions.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of local agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – [Agricultural Development](#), [Animal Health](#), [Crop and Pest Services](#), and [Technical Assistance](#) – MDAR strives to support, regulate, and enhance the Commonwealth's agricultural community, working to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, go to www.mass.gov/agr or follow us at www.twitter.com/agcommishsoares for the latest agricultural trends and updates. To keep up to date on workshops and events, visit www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm.