

USDA REAP PROGRAM

SMALL BUSINESS ENERGY IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Need to update equipment?

We are excited to bring to your attention an excellent opportunity for your business to enhance its sustainability and energy efficiency – the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) Grant.

The USDA REAP Grant program provides grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements. This presents an excellent opportunity for businesses like supermarkets, gyms, farms, etc. to help reduce their operational costs while contributing to a cleaner and greener environment.

Who We Are:

<u>Leswee LLC</u> is a management consulting company that specializes in cybersecurity, compliance, and grant acquisition services for governments and businesses.

We were awarded by the USDA under the Rural Energy for America Program Technical Assistance Grant Program (REAP Tag) to provide technical assistance to **80 Eligible Nebraska** rural small businesses and agriculture producers to assist applicants in preparing and applying for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) to reduce energy cost.

Through our partnership with the USDA, Leswee LLC has secured funding to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses in Nebraska to access the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant. This grant covers up to **50%** of the total project cost and can be utilized for the purchase, installation, and construction of renewable energy systems and/or energy efficiency improvements.

How may the funds be used?

Funds may be used to purchase and install renewable energy systems, upgrade equipment, and make energy-efficient improvements, such as:

Energy-Efficient Lighting:	High-Efficiency Refrigeration Systems	
 LED lighting fixtures for general illumination Motion sensor-controlled lights to optimize energy use in less frequently used areas. 	 Energy-efficient refrigeration units with advanced cooling technologies Smart refrigeration controls for optimizing temperature settings and energy consumption. 	
HVAC Systems with Energy-Saving Features:	Energy-Efficient HVAC Controls:	
 High-efficiency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units Programmable thermostats to regulate temperature based on occupancy and operational hours. 	 Building automation systems for centralized control and monitoring of HVAC and lighting 	
Energy-Efficient Building Envelope:	Energy-Efficient Doors and Windows:	
 Upgrades to the building envelope, including roofing and insulation improvements, to enhance overall energy efficiency. 	 Energy-efficient doors and windows to minimize heat transfer and reduce the need for heating or cooling. 	
Solar Panels and Wind:	Insulation Upgrades:	
 On-site solar panels to generate clean, renewable energy. And wind and more. 	 Improved insulation in walls, ceilings, and around refrigeration units to reduce energy loss. 	
Energy-Efficient Doors for Refrigeration Units:	Energy-Efficient Appliances in Commercial Kitchen:	
 Doors with improved insulation and automatic closing mechanisms for refrigeration units 	 Energy Star-rated cooking appliances, refrigerators, and freezers in the commercial kitchen 	

Who may apply for this program?

- Agricultural producers with at least 50 percent of their gross income from agricultural operations.
- Small businesses located in eligible rural areas.

Available Funding:

- Loan guarantees on loans up to **75%** of total eligible project costs.
- Grants for up to **50%** of total eligible project costs.
- Combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total eligible project costs.

Maximum Loan Guarantee Amount:

For FY 2024, It's 80%.

Loan Guarantee Terms:

- The loan term will not exceed 40 years.
- Interest rates are negotiated between the lender and borrower.

Underwriting Requirements:

Lenders must conduct a credit evaluation consistent with prudent lending practices.

NOTE: You can apply for a grant only but must provide 50% matching funds.

Grant Terms:

- Renewable Energy System Grants: **\$1 million maximum**.
- Energy Efficiency Grants: \$500,000 maximum.

Additional Requirements:

- Applicants must provide matching funds if applying for a grant only.
- Projects must have technical merit and use commercially available technology.
- Energy efficiency projects require an energy audit or assessment.
- All projects require an environmental review before award or construction.

This Grant Addresses Various Aspects of Operations Including:

Cost Savings	Long-Term Economic Viability	Environmental Impact	Improved Operational Resilience

How Can You Benefit?

Cost Reduction: The REAP grant covers a significant portion of project costs, reducing financial burden.

Energy Efficiency: Enhance operational efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

Environmental Impact: Adopting renewable energy systems contributes to a sustainable future.

How to Get Started:

Seize this opportunity to upgrade your energy infrastructure, reduce operating costs, and contribute to a sustainable future.

To apply for a chance to get free assistance go to our website and fill out the **NE REAP Form**. If you are eligible and selected, you will receive an email and someone from our team will reach out to you.

Sign up on our website: https://leswee.us/ne-reap

Learn more on our website about the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) you can also find our REAP Grant Document Checklist which will have all the information you need to prepare your business for success.

Thank you for your commitment to sustainability, and we look forward to seeing your business thrive with the support of Leswee LLC and the USDA Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

Contact Us:

For feedback, partnerships, or further information, please feel free to contact us.

Phone: (973) 433-6765

Email: info@leswee.us

Website: www.leswee.us