



*A project of Rhode Island Resource Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc. and developed with support from the USDA-Rural Development.*

## **Farmer/Rural Small Business**

### **A “key” to energy information**

#### **A. I WANT TO SAVE MONEY THROUGH ENERGY EFFICIENCY UPGRADES**

##### **a. Energy Efficiency**

- i. How do I assess where energy is being used on my farm?
  1. I want to access on-line assessment tools
    - a. [Energy Tools](#) (USDA-NRCS)
    - b. [Tracking the Energy Use on Your Farm](#) (publication of Iowa State Extension)
  2. I want to register for a free energy audit with National Grid - [Small Business Program](#)
  3. I need a comprehensive farm Energy Audit and would like financial assistance to help with the cost
    - a. USDA-NRCS - [Agricultural Energy Management Plan](#)
    - b. USDA-RD – [Rural Energy for America Program grant](#)
- ii. I have had an energy audit done
  1. It is not current (performed over 12 months ago)
    - a. I need a new audit
      - i. Are there funding opportunities available?
        1. Go to A.a.i.3.
    2. It is current (performed within the past 12 months)
      - a. I have implemented all practices
        - i. Are you ready for Renewable Energy?
          1. Go to: B
      - b. I have more practices to implement
        - i. I need to identify funding opportunities or financial incentives for energy efficiency projects to assist with the cost of energy efficiency upgrades.
          1. USDA-RD [Rural Energy for America Program grant](#)
          2. USDA-NRCS - [EQIP Program](#)
          3. National Grid – [Small Business Program](#)
      - c. I have not implemented practices
        - i. Did you review audit to make informed decisions about purchases and installation?
          1. If YES go to: ii
          2. If NO:
            - a. review your audit and/or
            - b. go to [Resource List RIFEP website](#)

- ii. Did you identify funding opportunities and financial incentives for energy efficiency projects to assist with the cost of energy efficiency upgrades?
  - 1. USDA-RD [REAP Grant](#)
  - 2. USDA-NRCS [EQIP Program](#)
  - 3. National Grid – [Small Business Program](#)
- iii. Did you finalize price estimates and confirm availability and installation timing with vendors & contractors?
  - 1. If YES go to: iv
  - 2. If No go to: [RIFEP Resource List](#)
- iv. Did you keep funders and other partners informed of project progress?
  - 1. If YES: ☺
  - 2. If NO: ☹

## B. I WANT TO EXPLORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

### a. Renewable Energy

- i. Do I want to become energy efficient first since reducing energy demand may reduce size and cost of renewable energy project?
  - 1. If YES go to: A.a.
  - 2. If No: Continue
- ii. I need to research technologies
  - 1. [Massachusetts Farm Energy Best Management Practices Guides](#)
  - 2. [Connecticut Farm Energy Program Energy Best Management Practices Guide](#)
- iii. Are you ready to contact an installer and request an estimate?
  - 1. If YES, go to: [RIFEP Resource List](#)
  - 2. If NO, go to: B.a.ii.
- iv. I am looking for [Funding Opportunities and Incentives](#)
  - 1. What are some options for funding assistance?
    - a. Grants
      - i. Federal
        - 1. [USDA-Rural Development](#)
        - 2. [USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service](#)
      - ii. State
        - 1. [RI Commerce Corporation](#)
        - 2. [RI Office of Energy Resources](#)
    - b. Incentives
      - i. [National Grid](#)

## C. I don't know what I want – I need to learn about my options

- a. I want to do some on-line research
  - i. [RIFEP website](#)
- b. I want to speak with someone
  - i. [RI Farm Energy Program](#)