

RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR AGRICULTURE GRANT PROGRAM (REAP)

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, with funds allocated from the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund, provide grants to farmers or businesses working with farmers to advance renewable energy technologies on farms. The purposes of the grants are to provide:

- (A) Business and technical assistance for research and planning to aid a farmer or a group of farmers in developing business enterprises that harvest biomass, convert biomass to energy, produce biofuel or other renewable energy technology;
- (B) Implementation assistance to leverage other sources of capital to assist a farmer or group of farmers in purchasing equipment, technology, or other assistance to produce agricultural energy, harvest biomass, convert biomass into energy or other renewable energy technologies; and
- (C) Business, technical, and implementation assistance to persons that are not farmers for the development and implementation of technology or development of facilities designed to produce agricultural energy, harvest biomass, convert biomass into energy, provided that the person is working in consultation with a Vermont farm, is creating an enterprise that utilizes Vermont resources, and provides Vermont a significant return on investment and meets any financial and technical criteria established by the program.

The application process is straight-forward. Send a one page description of the renewable energy project you would like to investigate to:

Daniel Scruton
Vermont Agency of Agriculture
116 State St.
Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

Or email:
dan.scruton@state.vt.us

The one page description should include the types of energy you want to investigate; the outline of the process you will use to investigate them; and the cost of the study. Most grants are for \$10,000.

Most grants are for feasibility analysis of a type of technology. For those, the required output is a detailed financial and technical analysis of the technology studied; including a three year cash-flow analysis of the enterprise showing how it will strengthen the financial viability of your farm. There are also opportunities for research and development of new ideas as noted above in A, B and C.