USDA Secretary Vilsack is committed to a Department of Agriculture (USDA) that faithfully serves Tribal governments and individual American Indians and Alaska Natives.

- **Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation (2009)**
- **Secretary Vilsack Releases Final Sacred Sites Report (2012) and executes Interdepartmental MOU on Sacred Sites**
- **USDA Rural Development and Farm Service Agency/NRCS MOUs with BIA**
- **USDA Departmental Regulation 1350-002 (2013)  
  *Tribal Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration*  
  Replacing Departmental Regulation on Consultation (2008)
About the Office of Tribal Relations

OTR is responsible for:

- Government-to-government relations between USDA and tribal governments
- Advising Secretary Vilsack on Tribal issues and concerns
- Serving as a primary Point of Contact on Tribal Consultation
- Facilitating Tribal Access to USDA programs & USDA outreach to Tribes
- The Council on Native American Farming and Ranching
- Representing USDA on Cross-Federal Teams
  - Ex. White House Counsel on Native American Affairs (Energy, Climate, Economic Development); Education, Infrastructure, Youth and Workforce focus from President’s trip;
Working Across the Federal Family

- White House Council on Native American Affairs
- Energy
- Finance/Capital
- Climate Change
- Sacred Sites Working Group
- Exports
- Let’s Move! in Indian Country
- Education, Infrastructure, Youth and Workforce
  focus from President’s trip
The Agriculture Act of 2014 (the “Farm Bill”)

OTR and FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION

- Review all regulations coming out of the Farm Bill
- Advise on Consultation
  - Made the Office of Tribal Relations permanent in the Office of the Secretary
  - Includes “and Tribes” in many locations
  - Adds veterans as a focus along with socially disadvantaged
Established as part of the Keepseagle Settlement, the USDA’s Council for Native American Farming and ranching (CNAFR) was created to advise the Secretary on ways to eliminate barriers to participation for Native American Farmers and Ranchers in USDA programs.

Council Charter
Council for Native American Farmers and Ranchers

- 15 members
  - 11 representatives of Native American farmers and ranchers
  - 4 USDA officials
    - Administrator for the Farm Service Agency
    - Senior advisor to the Secretary on Tribal Relations
    - Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
    - Deputy Administrator for Farm Loan Programs
Rural Development Program Areas

Program Areas

- Rural Utilities Service
  - Electric Programs
  - Water & Environmental Programs
  - Telecommunications Programs
- Rural Housing & Community Facilities
  - Single Family Housing
  - Multi-Family Housing
  - Community Facilities
- Rural Business Cooperative Service
  - Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans
  - Rural Business Enterprise Grants
  - Rural Business Opportunity Grants
  - Rural Energy for America Program
Rural Development Funding Streams

- Guaranteed Loans
- Grants
- Direct Loans
- Direct Payments
Purpose: The Section 9007 Grant Program provides grants for **agricultural producers** and **rural small businesses** to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.

- **Grants** and **Guaranteed Loans**
- Grants can be used to pay up to 25% of total project costs
- $500,000 limit for renewable energy systems and $250,000 limit for energy efficiency improvements
  - Applications can be submitted at any time
- **Energy Audit** and Renewable Energy Development Assistance grants are also available

- Never too early to contact our staff!
These entities must operate independent of direct Government control except for Tribal business entities formed as Section 17 Corporations as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or other Tribal business entities that have similar structures and relationships with their Tribal governments as determined by the Agency. The Agency shall determine the small business status of such a Tribal entity without regard to the resources of the Tribal government.

- Tribal electric utilities are eligible
- REAP Interim Final Rule (4/14/11)
Rural Energy for America Program

REAP
## Eligible Technologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy Efficiency</th>
<th>Renewable Energy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lighting</td>
<td>Solar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating</td>
<td>Wind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling</td>
<td>Small Hydroelectric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ventilation</td>
<td>Anaerobic Digesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fans</td>
<td>Biomass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated Controls</td>
<td>Geothermal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insulation</td>
<td>Wave/Ocean Power</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The technology must be commercially available. Research and development projects do not qualify.
Chicken Farm

- Radiant heat
- Fans & vents
- Computerized controls

Improved egg production

Energy Efficiency
Veterinary Hospital

Rooftop solar panels
30-40% lower operating costs

Renewable Energy
Laundromat & Dry Cleaner

Energy efficient equipment

52% energy savings

Energy Efficiency
Renewable Energy

Small Energy Company & Dairy Farmers

1 MW Anaerobic digester
Powers 700 homes/year
Nursery

- Energy efficient glass roof
- Radiant heat
- Fans & vents
- Computerized controls

40% reduction in energy costs
Rural Auto Repair Shop

- 11 kW micro-hydrowpower turbine
- 51% reduction in energy costs
## Energy Efficiency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural Manufacturer</th>
<th>Grocery Store</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Efficient lighting system</td>
<td>Energy efficient cooler doors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50% savings on lighting bill</td>
<td>$500 per month savings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Renewable Energy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grocery Store</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal heat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy efficient coolers &amp; lighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40% reduction in energy costs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eligible Applicants

**Agricultural Producer**
- Individual or entity that receives 51 percent or more of their gross income from agricultural production – crops, livestock, aquaculture, forestry operations, nurseries, dairies

**Rural Small Business**
- Privately owned for-profit small business - as defined by the Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Rural area or non-metro community of ≤ 50,000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Project Costs</th>
<th>Ineligible Project Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Equipment:</td>
<td>• Residential energy projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Purchase &amp; installation</td>
<td>• Equipment:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• New, refurbished, or remanufactured equipment</td>
<td>• Farm tillage equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Post-application construction &amp; facility improvements</td>
<td>• Used equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Professional service fees</td>
<td>• Vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Energy audits &amp; assessments</td>
<td>• Pre-application construction &amp; facility improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Feasibility studies &amp; technical reports</td>
<td>• Application preparation or grant writer fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Business plans</td>
<td>• Line of credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Permits &amp; license fees</td>
<td>• Lease payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Retrofitting</td>
<td>• Payment to the applicant/business owner, beneficiary, or relative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Working capital, land acquisition (Guarantee ONLY)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REAP Grant Assistance

Up to 25% of Eligible Project Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Renewable Energy Systems</th>
<th>Energy Efficiency Improvements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Grant Request</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total eligible project costs &gt; $10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum Grant Request</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total eligible project costs &gt; $2 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Minimum Grant Request    | $1,500                        |
| Total eligible project costs > $6,000 |
| Maximum Grant Request    | $250,000                       |
| Total eligible project costs > $1 million |
REAP Guaranteed Loan Assistance

Up to 75% of Eligible Project Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum Loan Amount</th>
<th>$5,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total eligible project costs ≥ $6,667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Loan Amount</th>
<th>$25 million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total eligible project costs ≥ $33.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• USDA guarantees a commercial loan; applicant must have a willing lender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Terms are negotiated between the lender and borrower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fees, appraisals, equity &amp; collateral requirements apply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### REAP Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants (EA/REDA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligible Applicants</th>
<th>Public bodies, institutions of higher learning, and publicly owned utilities, councils and electric cooperatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>To provide energy efficiency and renewable energy technical assistance to REAP-eligible businesses, farmers and ranchers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Details             | • Up to $100,000  
• Applicants compete nationally based on merit |
How to Apply

• Contact the USDA Rural Development Energy Coordinator in your state for application materials and resources: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_EnergyCoordinatorList.html

• Submit applications any time of year.

• Applications compete for funding based score.

• Funding selections are made at least once per year.
Fiscal Year 2014 Funding

• Grant applications are due **July 7, 2014**.
  • $12.38 million

• G-loan applications due by **July 31, 2014**.
  • $57.8 million

Fiscal Year 2015 Funding will be available
2014 Farm Bill Funding
Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements

- Notice to publish with Final Rule later in calendar year 2014

- Two windows for grant applications:
  - 90 days after publishing
  - April 30, 2015

- Guaranteed Loans:
  - Continuous applications cycle, evaluated monthly
Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_Reap.html
“RBEG” Grants to finance & facilitate development of small & emerging private business enterprises.

- Rural Areas = 50,000 or less
- Tribes are eligible applicants
  - Grants don’t go directly to for-profit businesses!

- FY 2012 = $3,230,955 (legislative mandate for Tribes)
  - $21.5 Million = regular program (Tribes are eligible)

www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_rbeg.html
“RBOG” Grants for:
- economic planning in rural communities,
- technical assistance for rural businesses, or
- training for rural entrepreneurs or economic development officials.

- Rural Areas = 50,000 or less
- Tribes are eligible applicants
  - Grants don’t go directly to businesses!

- FY 2012 = $1,141,610 (legislative mandate for Tribes)
  - Regular program – An additional $1.295 Million (Tribes are eligible)

www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_RBOG.html
“B&I” Purpose: To improve, develop or finance business, industry & employment and improve the economic & environmental climate in rural communities.

- Rural = 50,000 or less
- Tribes are eligible applicants
  - Tribally owned businesses are eligible
  - Businesses owned by tribal members are eligible
- Most loan guarantees are $10 million or less
- 80% Maximum Guarantee (with certain exceptions)
- FY 12 = $870.9 million available

www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_gar.html
“REDLG” Purpose: The REDLG program provides funding to rural projects through local utility organizations.

- Tribes are not directly eligible
  - A utility that is a current (or past) RD Electric or Telecom Program Borrower
  - Not-for-profit utilities that are eligible to receive assistance from the RD Electric or Telecom Programs
- Zero interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses projects that will create & retain employment.
- Grant funds used to establish revolving loan funds.

www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_redlg.html
Electric Programs

Electric Loans
- FY12 ~$7 Billion

High Energy Cost Grant Program
- FY12 ~ $7 million
- Timing TBD

Contact:
- General Field Representatives
- National Office

Additional information:
www.rurdev.usda.gov/UEP_HomePage.html
The High Energy Cost Grant Program provides financial assistance for the improvement of energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities serving eligible rural communities with home energy costs that are over 275% of the national average.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a grant under this program:
- Eligible applicants include: Indian tribes, a tribally owned entity or an Alaska Native Corporation
- The proposed project must improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities serving an eligible community
- The administrative costs of the project must not exceed 4 percent

www.rurdev.usda.gov/UEP_Apply_for_Grant.html
Substantially Underserved Trust Areas (SUTA) Provision

- Section 6105 of the 2008 Farm Bill
  Affects RD-RUS Programs Only

- Loans with interest as low as 2 percent and/or with extended repayment terms
- May waive non-duplication restrictions, matching fund requirements, or credit support requirements from any loan or grant program administered by RUS to facilitate construction, acquisition or improvements of infrastructure
- May give highest priority for projects in SUTA
- Only make loans that are financially feasible
- SUTA consideration under Broadband, Electric, Water, Telecom Loan Program and Distance L&T is under evaluation – ASK!

www.rurdev.usda.gov/suta.htm
Tribal Energy by Design
August 19, 2014

Promise Zones
Promise Zone Goals

- Job creation
- Increased economic activity
- Improved educational opportunities
- Leverage private investment
- Reduced violent crime
What Does a Designee Get?

- Designated Federal field staff liaison
- Five full-time VISTA service members
- Priority Points from Federal agencies
- Measurement and evaluation support
- Designation lasts 10 years
VISTAs

- The Corporation for National and Community Service (NCNS) has committed to providing 5 VISTAs in each Promise Zone community
  - VISTAs are full-time paid volunteers who commit to a year of service
  - HUD/USDA will offer ongoing training
Priority Preference

- Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Small Business Administration
- Department of Justice
- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Education
- Corporation for National and Community Service: AmeriCorps VISTA
Update and Next Steps

- HUD & USDA are leading the interagency effort
- Building an infrastructure that will sustain the initiative & ensure community implementation needs are being met
- Working closely with 2013 Designees
- Gearing-up for next round of Promise Zones selections
Talk to OTR

Talk to your Congressional Offices

Talk to your State USDA reps
Questions?
Contact Information

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