

# Leveraging State and Federal Incentive Opportunities for RI Agribusinesses



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# Introduction



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

OFFICE OF  
ENERGY RESOURCES

**Placement:** RI Office of Energy Resources

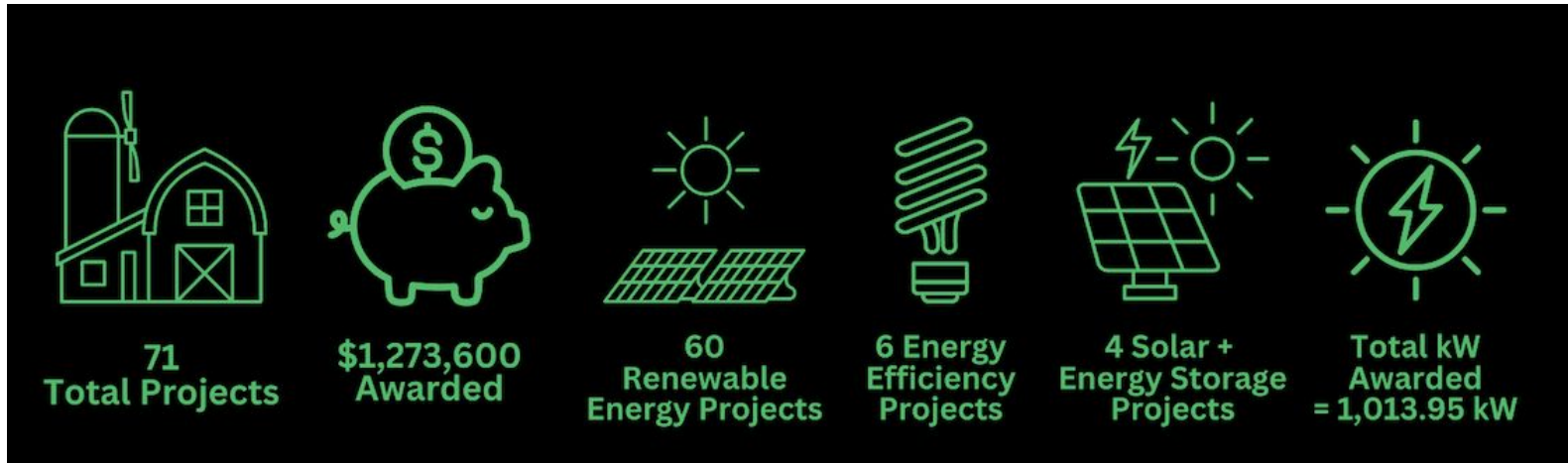
**Major:** Environmental and Natural Resource Economics

**Graduation Date:** May 2024

**Hometown:** Richmond, RI



# RI Agricultural Energy Program: What is it?



# Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

- Many applicants apply to the RI AgEP in tandem with REAP, but its highly administratively burdensome



Verde Vineyards, Johnston



# What is REAP TAG?

USDA is seeking projects:

1. Requesting less than \$20,000
2. Projects located in DACs

## **What does this program do?**

The purpose of the REAP TAG Program is to enable applicants to provide technical assistance to Agricultural Producers and Rural Small Businesses applying to REAP, with priority for Applicants assisting distressed or disadvantaged communities and for Applicants pursuing projects using underutilized technologies or seeking grants under \$20,000. To meet this purpose, the Agency will make grants to eligible entities to provide services to assist potential REAP Applicants in submitting Complete Applications



## **COMPONENTS OF OER's REAP TAG APPLICATION:**

- OER's Farm Energy Program has established a channel of REAP "tandem applicants" who are well suited for the pairing of state and federal energy incentives
- What the money is actually going to do:
  - Provide tailored application assistance
  - Audits to small utilities
  - Fund the Farm Energy Fellow for the next 3 years

RI Ag EP & REAP Tandem Applicant	Program Round
Pat's Pastured	Fall 2017
Cottrell Homestead	Fall 2017
Carpenters Farm	Fall 2017
Little Grange Farm	Fall 2017
Stony Acres Farm	Fall 2017
Barden Family Orchard	Spring 2017
Earth Care Farm	Spring 2017
Good Earth Gardening Center	Spring 2017
Goodwin Brothers Farm	Spring 2017
Grandin Landscape and Supply	Spring 2017
Pat's Pastured	Fall 2018
Paris St. Pierre Equestrian	Fall 2018

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Windmist Farm	Fall 2018
Richard Levesque Equestrian	Spring 2018
Skinny Dip Farm	Spring 2018
Big Train Farm	Fall 2019
Pat's Pastured	Fall 2019
Gnarly Vines Farm	Fall 2020
Legend's Creek Farm	Spring 2019
Martinelli's Farm	Spring 2019
Verde Vineyards	Spring 2019
The Farm in RI	Spring 2020
Emma Acres	Spring 2020
Gnarly Vines Farm	Spring 2020

Ninigret Oyster Farm	Spring 2021
Sky Dog Farm	Spring 2021
Wild Harmony Farm	Spring 2021
Newport Equestrian Academy	Spring 2022
Roots Family Farm	Spring 2022
Sodco Inc.	Spring 2022
Snake Den Farm Association	Fall 2022
Hattoy's Nursery and Garden Center	Spring 2023

# Case Study: Windmist Farm, Jamestown

2018 RI AgEP and REAP awardee

25.205 kW DC solar PV array

- Total project cost: **\$80,968.60**
  - **\$20,000** from RI AgEP
  - **\$20,242.15** from REAP
  - Also awarded REF, federal ITC





# Rhode Island Agricultural Energy Grant Program



**Are you interested in reducing on-site energy use, energy bills and carbon footprint?**

The RI Agricultural Energy Grant Program awards grants to RI Farms for up to \$20,000 for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Agricultural producers experience disproportionately high energy burdens, which can be offset partially or entirely with the combination of energy efficiency upgrades and renewable energy generation, saving RI Farmers thousands of dollars in utility bills and delivered fuels.

**Applications for the next funding round are due on October 20th, 2023.**



For more information, scan the QR code or contact Abigail Hasenfus:

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**(401) 574-9117 (ext 3)**



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# Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

This program provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements.

## Who can apply?

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



For more information, scan this QR code to visit the REAP website.

## What is an eligible area?

- Agricultural producers can be in rural or non-rural areas.
- Small businesses must be in rural areas with populations of 50,000 or fewer.

## How can funds be used?

- Funds can be used for renewable energy systems such as:
  - Small-and-commercial scale solar generation
  - Small-and-commercial scale wind generation
  - High efficiency HVAC systems, such as heat pumps
  - And more!

## How can you get started?

- REAP Applications are now accepted quarterly in your local USDA Rural Development Office.





# Thank you!

Contact

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