Energy Programs at USDA

Tim O'Connell
Assistant to the State Director/
Rural Energy Coordinator

USDA/Rural Development

Committed to the future of rural communities.
Rural Development

Over 40 grant, direct loan, and guaranteed loan programs to finance housing, businesses, and infrastructure in rural areas.

Program Areas:

• Rural Housing Programs
• Rural Utility Programs
• Rural Business and Cooperative Programs

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov

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“Old” Energy Programs

- **Section 9006**: Provide guaranteed loans and/or grants to farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and/or energy efficiency projects.

- **Section 9008**: Biomass Research and Development—partnership between USDA and DOE

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“New” Energy Programs

• Rural Energy for America Program (REAP): Replaces Section 9006
• Biorefinery Assistance
• Biomass Crop Assistance Program
• Repowering Assistance
• Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels
• Biomass Research and Development (continuation of 9008)
• Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency
Rural Energy for America

• Enhancements from previous program:
  – More technologies available (now includes small hydro and wave energy)
  – Increases loan guarantees from $10M to $25M
  – Establishes an energy audit grant program
  – Allows grants for feasibility studies
  – Increases combined guaranteed loan/grant combination from 50% to 75% of project costs (subject to statutory $ limits)

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Biomass Research and Development

• **Continuation of Section 9008:**
  – Reduces research topic areas from 4 to 3
    • Feedstocks,
    • Biofuels and Biobased Products Development,
    • Biofuels Development Analysis
Biorefinery Assistance

Section 9003 provides:

• Grants covering up to 30% of the cost of developing and building demonstration-scale biorefineries for producing "advanced biofuels," which essentially includes all fuels that are not produced from corn kernel starch.

• Loan guarantees of up to $250 million for building commercial-scale biorefineries to produce advanced biofuels.
Contact Information

Timothy W. O'Connell
Assistant to the State Director/Rural Energy Coordinator
USDA/Rural Development
154 Waianuenue Ave., Room 303
Hilo, HI  96720
(808) 933-8313
(808) 933-8326 (F)
tim.oconnell@hi.usda.gov

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