

# ***Agricultural Energy Program Grant***

***A collaborative project of the Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture and Office of Air Resources, the Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc. and the RI Office of Energy Resources***

## **Request for Application (RFA) 2018**



For the implementation of agricultural projects that improve energy efficiency and facilitate renewable energy.

Applications must be received by RIRCD or postmarked no later than 4:00 PM on **MARCH 16, 2018**

Applications which are emailed must be sent to Paul Dolan at [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com) and received by 4:00 PM on **MARCH 16, 2018 (NO EXCEPTIONS)**

**Contact: Paul Dolan  
Telephone: 401-500-0399  
Email: [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com)**

**Rhode Island Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.  
2283 Hartford Avenue  
Johnston, RI 02919**



*Figure 1 Baby Greens Farm, North Kingstown, RI  
10.08kW system*

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Figure 2: Fluers, Inc. Richmond, RI 8.1kW systems

**Request for Application**  
**RFA – Agricultural Energy Program Grant**

**SECTION A. Description of Ag-Energy Program Grant**

**1. Purpose**

The Rhode Island Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, Inc. (RI RC&D) and the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Department of Environmental Management, Division of Agriculture and Office of Air Resources (Department) request Rhode Island agricultural operations to submit applications seeking funding for agricultural energy projects in an effort to improve energy efficiency and promote renewable (clean energy) energy technologies.

DEPARTMENT and the RI RC&D share common objectives to:

- Keep agriculture a viable and growing sector of Rhode Island’s economy
- Increase the number of small and emerging farmers participating in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects;
- Reduce energy consumption thereby, decreasing the carbon footprint of the agricultural community;

Combination Advance/Reimbursement grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis. All projects must be completed within a year of award and all reimbursements are subject to Department funding sources. Satisfactory receipts for costs of approved practices must be submitted to RIRCD and approved prior to any reimbursement. **NOTE: All funding is subject to appropriation.**

**2. Project Categories**

Though all farm related energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that meet RI Ag-Energy Program requirements will be considered, higher priority project proposals should focus on either of two (2) specified categories and respective technologies listed.

Category One	Energy Efficiency
<b>Greenhouses and Nurseries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thermal Curtains</li> <li>• Envelope Insulation</li> <li>• Natural Ventilation</li> <li>• Root Zone Heating (under bench)</li> <li>• Electronic Temperature Controls</li> </ul>
<b>Dairy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plate Cooler</li> <li>• Variable Speed Vacuum Pumps</li> <li>• Refrigeration Heat Recovery/Free Heaters</li> </ul>

<b>Maple Sugaring, Food Production &amp; Other Technologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High Efficiency Evaporators</li> <li>• Reverse Osmosis (RO) Systems</li> <li>• Heat Recovery &amp; Steam Enhanced Units</li> <li>• Higher efficiency heating, ventilation &amp; air conditioning systems (HVAC)</li> <li>• Insulation</li> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• High Efficiency Refrigeration (optimally with heat recovery)</li> <li>• Doors and windows</li> <li>• Cold Storage Systems</li> <li>• Process Heat Recovery</li> <li>• EE Technologies advancing urban food gardens</li> </ul>
<b>Category Two</b>	<b>Renewable Energy</b>
<b>Renewables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photovoltaics (PV)</li> <li>• Wind</li> <li>• Solar Thermal</li> <li>• Geothermal – high efficiency air-source/ground source heat pumps</li> <li>• Renewable energy advancing urban food gardens</li> </ul>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Project Proposal Eligibility Criteria and Requirements</b>
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Minimum Requirements</b>
<b>Applicant Eligibility</b>	<p>Eligible agricultural operations are those that fulfill the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is an “agricultural operation” which includes any commercial enterprise which has as its primary purpose horticulture, viticulture, floriculture, forestry, stabling of horses, dairy farming, or aquaculture, or the raising of livestock, including for the production of fiber, furbearing animals, poultry, or bees, and all such other operations, uses, and activities as the director, in consultation with the chief of division of agriculture, may determine to be agriculture, or an agricultural activity, use or operation. The mixed-use of farms and farmlands for other forms of enterprise is hereby recognized as a valuable and viable means of contributing to the preservation of agriculture.</li> <li>• The “Agricultural Operation” has produced at least \$2,500 in annual income from farming operations in the previous year.</li> <li>• Legally recognized entities within the State of Rhode Island that have the ability to enter a legally binding agreement with the State;</li> <li>• Have demonstrated the capacity to implement and administer projects and programs as defined in the responsive proposals to this RFA;</li> <li>• Demonstrate evidence of balance of project funding in addition to the funding requested by the responsive proposal to this RFA</li> </ul>

<b>Energy Efficiency Audit</b>	<p>Applicant’s farming operation must have received a general energy efficiency audit, or demonstrate the initiation of such which shall be completed as part of the program fulfillment and will be accepted at completion of the project.</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> In the event the completion of an energy audit is impossible or impractical for the proposed project, the Grant Committee may waive this requirement on an individual basis if supplemental materials requested cannot be produced.</p>
<b>Eligible Proposals</b>	
<b>Eligible Proposals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that support agricultural operations and activities as defined by National Right to Farm Act.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• Eligible farm stands need to meet the intent of an agricultural operation whereby the purpose of the farm stand shall be to sell agricultural products, a majority of which are produced by the applicants farming operation.</li> <li>• New construction and new equipment incentives shall be based on incremental costs from minimum code and standard efficiency baselines.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Specific Energy Assessment &amp; Project Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects should include, or demonstrate the commitment of professional design and, if applicable, engineering support needed for building the project.</li> <li>• Preference shall be given to applicants who demonstrate that they are construction ready.</li> <li>• Proposals should include a project specific energy efficiency<sup>2</sup> and/or renewable energy assessment documenting the proposed project energy savings and project cost-benefit analysis.</li> </ul>
<b>Permits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposals which are favorably reviewed and awarded a contract must apply for and receive all required permits, licenses, and any other federal, state, or local approvals necessary for the project prior to any reimbursement from RIRCD.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Funding Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects receiving and/or applying to receive other program funds, such as the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Energy for America Program (USDA REAP), United States Department of Agriculture Environmental Quality Incentives Program (USDA EQIP), Commerce RI Renewable Energy Fund (REF), and Federal Investment Tax Credit, known or anticipated, must provide this information by agency in Sections 2 and 3 Project Economics and shall be considered as funds contributed to those relevant projects.</li> <li>• Preference shall be given to applicants who demonstrate having the balance of funding needed to implement the proposed project.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> National Right to Farm Act <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/righttofarm>

<sup>2</sup> The project specific energy efficiency assessment can be part of the farm’s general energy efficiency audit, that is, does not have to be separate.

#### 4. Funding Details

<p><b>Maximum Funding</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum funding per applicant/year shall be \$20,000 which shall be for the direct costs associated with the materials and labor related to implementing the project.</li> <li>• Satisfactory documentation for final reimbursement in the form of cancelled checks (both sides), bank statements, receipts, invoices, etc. for costs associated with approved projects must be submitted to RIRCD and approved prior to reimbursement.</li> <li>• RIRCD would like to fund as many eligible projects as possible, RIRCD encourages projects requesting less than the maximum \$20,000. RIRCD reserves the right to revise the initial funding request based on project evaluation.</li> <li>• Though there is no maximum percentage of total project cost funding that can be requested, it is desired that projects are able to demonstrate contributions from other sources. This includes evidence of a match of dollars to the funding requested in this RFA.</li> <li>• Funding requests can be for specific components of a project. However, an applicant must demonstrate that the result of such a request will result in a complete functional and operable system.</li> <li>• <b>Any incurred project costs that occur prior to an executed contract with RIRC&amp;D are NOT eligible for reimbursement from RIRCD.</b></li> <li>• Only work that satisfies the terms and conditions of this RFA, contract, and any other instructions by RIRCD shall be eligible for reimbursement.</li> <li>• <b>All funding is subject to appropriation</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Installation Standards and Permits</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All construction shall be completed and installed in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local codes, ordinances and regulations.</li> <li>• Equipment and materials must be new, all PV equipment must be listed under California Energy Commission list of eligible equipment, and must be UL listed</li> <li>• Solar PV projects shall meet the Renewable Energy Fund’s Minimum Technical Requirements (<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4my6hqps6ziZIV3eTRRN0FzMXM/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4my6hqps6ziZIV3eTRRN0FzMXM/view</a>). If a project cannot meet 80% Total Solar Resource Fraction (TSRF), please provide a letter, on letterhead, indicating that the project will still provide financial benefit to the applicant and that the applicant is aware the project is not eligible for a Renewable Energy Fund grant from Commerce RI.</li> <li>• In order to be considered a qualified vendor, applications must include legible photocopies of the following documentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rhode Island Contractors’ Registration and Licensing Boards registration</li> <li>○ Rhode Island Renewable Energy Professional Certificate and/or a Valid A Electrical license (when applicable)</li> <li>○ Proof of registration with the Rhode Island Secretary of State’s Office. Corporations, LLC’s., etc. must file the proper paper work with the Rhode Island Secretary of State’s Office. Any fictitious</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>names used must be on file with the Secretary of State and must reflect the registration number of the registered entity. A copy of the certificate of registration is necessary for each “business entity” even if said entity is owned by the same individual pursuant to RIGL 5-65-1 (3) (ii).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renewable Energy projects shall meet all state and federal rules, regulations and requirements and shall be installed by contractors engaged, licensed and certified in the relevant technologies</li> <li>• Wind projects shall meet the Renewable Energy Fund’s Minimum Technical Requirements. Turbines must be SWCC certified or have applicable IEC Standards</li> </ul>
<b>Site Visit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All projects which are favorably reviewed in the initial evaluation process will require a field visit prior to final award determinations being made. A favorable initial evaluation and field visit <b>DOES NOT</b> guarantee funding for a proposed project. The purposes of the field visit are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. To verify the information that is presented in the proposal;</li> <li>B. View the agricultural operation and assess the resource to be addressed;</li> <li>C. Verify that the operation is engaged in commercial agriculture;</li> <li>D. Determine the appropriateness of the practice proposed for the farm;</li> <li>E. Confirm the ability to implement and maintain the practice;</li> <li>F. To explore other items deemed necessary, and</li> <li>G. Develop a basis for future “before and after” comparisons.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Large Scale Renewable Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher priority will be given to non-utility scale, or non-large scale commercial projects that demonstrate predominately agriculturally related renewable energy usage.</li> <li>• Renewable Energy Projects must be net metered.</li> </ul>
<b>Ineligible Proposals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposals for projects that have already been completed or for which the applicant seeks reimbursement</li> <li>• Proposals from applicants whose operation is out of compliance with any federal, state or local laws or regulations.</li> <li>• Requests for audits or feasibility studies</li> <li>• Any renewable energy projects using the Renewable Energy Growth Program <sup>1</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Funding source for this RFA is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Projects may not utilize both the REG program and RGGI funding.

**5. Anticipated Duration of Contracts**

All projects must be completed by **APRIL 30, 2019**. If an extension is requested, RI RC&D will review each request on a case by case basis.

## 6. Reporting

Mandatory Progress Report—A written progress report or an email stating the progress of the project which describes overall progress in conducting the program, and any difficulties or problems met in carrying out the program is required six months into applicant’s contract.

**7. Criteria for Evaluation** Responses to the RFA are evaluated based upon the following criteria which are marked in importance by awarding points.

- Project application is in compliance with the submission requirements and format presentation for this RFA.
- Adequate supporting project documentation in the form of a general energy audit, project specific assessments, energy saving calculations, turn-key contracts, site plans, and equipment specifications.
- Adequate return on investment documents for either energy efficiency or renewable energy as defined herein.
- Adequate identification of permit needs.
- Adequate project implementation schedule.
- Adequate identification of any on-going operation and maintenance and/or periodic replacement needs and how they will be accomplished to ensure project longevity.
- Project has a realistic opportunity to have a successful long term impact given the expected life of the equipment and the resulting cost savings, cost avoidance, and other revenue streams contributing to the project cash flow.
- Project has a realistic opportunity to be successfully implemented given the scope, budget, necessary permits and timeline.
- Project team make-up, past experience, and demonstrated ability to administer projects of the scope and value described by the responsive proposal to this RFA.
- Project provides equipment and labor warranties.
- Minimum three year workmanship warranty for Renewable Energy projects.
- Project demonstrates balance of funding from other or in-kind sources.
- Applicant demonstrates the capacity to implement and administer projects and programs as defined in the responsive proposals to this RFA.
- Preference shall be given to applicants with construction ready projects and to those projects that have completed or will be in the process of design engineering, receiving quotes for materials and labor from qualified professionals engaged in the field of work specified, intend to begin and complete the construction/ implementation stage and can demonstrate balance of funding to implement the proposed project.
- All project priorities and preferences stated herein.
- All applications being considered for award will need a site visit. Information gathered during the field visit can be used as evaluation criteria. The Department reserves the right to fund only applications that receive an initial favorable review and a satisfactory field visit to verify proposal details.



### Instructions for Submission of Application

**An application form is attached and must be completed and mailed/delivered to RI RC&D or postmarked by the appropriate response cycle date deadline.**

Applications must be postmarked no later than **Friday, MARCH 16, 2018** or may be hand delivered by 4:00 PM on **MARCH 16, 2018**. All materials must be sent or hand delivered to the attention of:

**Paul Dolan  
Area Director  
RI Conservation & Development Area Council, Inc.  
2283 Hartford Avenue  
Johnston, RI 02929**

Applications which are emailed must be sent to Paul Dolan at [rircd2283@gmail.com](mailto:rircd2283@gmail.com) and received by 4:00 PM on **MARCH 16, 2018** (NO EXCEPTIONS)

- RI RC&D cannot guarantee that any particular grant will be awarded under this RFA. Any potential contract with a successful responder will be subject to the availability of funds consistent with the terms of an Application submitted to this RFA, any rules or decisions of RIRCD, and all relevant laws and regulations.
- **Applications that are sent by fax will NOT be accepted.**
- **All funding is subject to appropriation.**

**Failure to provide any of the materials listed below may result in the disqualification of the Application Package: Projects must include the following:**

- An Application attestation signature must be signed by an authorized signatory for the applicant organization, located on the last page **SECTION B. Ag Energy Program Application Form**
- A project specific technical assessment, attached to the application, that provides all of the back-up and supporting documentation required within the application.
- The completion of a general energy audit for the agricultural operation, or the commitment to complete such prior to proposed project completion and funding reimbursement

**SECTION B. Ag Energy Program Application Form (FY 2017)**

**Application Details**

<b>Renewable Energy Project Name:</b>	<b>Project Size (kw):</b>
<b>Energy Efficiency Project Name:</b>	<b>Energy Savings (kWh or mmbtu)::</b>

**All of the information on the application must be completed or identified as not applicable.**

**1. Agricultural Operation Information**

Applicant Name

Operation Name

Legal Structure

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone       Mobile Phone

Email       County

How did you hear about the program?

Website \_\_\_\_\_      Workshop \_\_\_\_\_      Word of Mouth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_ (please state)

**2. Operation Site Address (if different from above)**

Site Address

City, State, Zip

### 3. Agricultural Operation Details

Type of Operation:  Greenhouse  Dairy  Nursery  Livestock  
 Produce  Beef  Other

Acreage Owned  Acreage Leased  Acreage in Production

### 4. Participation in Agricultural Development Rights Program

a. This farm has a "Deed to Development Rights" (DDR). If yes, please answer the questions below and list the name of the farm and the year the DDR was recorded.

YES  NO

Will this project be implemented on DDR land? YES  NO

Will this project require an approval from the Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission?

YES  NO  NOT SURE

Year DDR Recorded  Name on DDR

**NOTE: All renewable energy projects must be consistent with state policy.**

b. Is the proposed project involved with other State and/or Federal funding programs? Check all that apply.

USDA-NRCS/EQIP  USDA REAP  Commerce RI REF  Federal Tax Credit

### 5. Project Details: Attach additional documentation if necessary or as required within

Issue(s) of Concern: Energy Efficiency  Renewable Energy

Is proposed project listed in the "Project Categories" found in Section 2 (pages 3-4)?

Yes  No

**Section 1 A:** Provide a clear description of the agricultural operation including crops grown and/or livestock raised.

**Section 1 B.** Provide a clear description of the proposed energy project and how the project will impact and benefit the agricultural activities within the operation.

**Section 2: Energy Efficiency Details**

**All energy audits and energy assessments must be attached and submitted as part of this application**

**NOTE Are you applying for a Renewable Energy Project? If yes, fill in #1 below then proceed to Section 3: Renewable Energy Details.**

1. Was a general energy efficiency audit conducted for this site? If yes, please attach to the application. YES  NO

Name of auditor:

2. Is the proposed energy project assessment included as part of the general energy efficiency audit conducted on this site? YES  NO

3. Is there a separate specific energy efficiency project assessment conducted only for the proposed project? If yes, please attach to the application. YES  NO

4. What amount of currently consumed energy will be saved by the proposed efficiency project? Please state fuel type. (i.e. KWH, gals., therms., cords)

5. What percentage of energy currently used by the application will be saved by implementing the proposed energy efficiency project?  %

**Project Economics: Energy Efficiency Projects – Attach supporting quotes from vendors or contractors**

A. **Total Project Costs** \$

B. **Expected Annual Cost Savings** \$

C. **Expected (or Anticipated) Rebates, Grants, Incentives:**

1. Electric/gas/Utility Energy Efficiency Incentives	\$	<input type="text"/>
2. USDA-NRCS (EQIP)	\$	<input type="text"/>
3. USDA-Rural Development (REAP)	\$	<input type="text"/>
4. Other (please specify) _____	\$	<input type="text"/>
TOTAL C. (1+2+3+4)		\$ <input type="text"/>

D. **RI AgEnergy Grant Request (\$20,000 or less)** \$

E. **Applicant Contribution to Project** \$

**Section 3: Renewable Energy Details**  
**All energy audits and energy assessments must be attached and submitted as part of this application**

1. Has a turn-key contract been received or executed for the proposed project?  
 If yes, please attach to the application. YES  NO

2. What is the proposed annual energy generation for the proposed project?

3. What is the current annual energy consumption for the operation?

4. What percentage of energy currently used by the application will be saved By implementing the proposed renewable energy project?  %

**Project Economics: Renewable Energy Projects – Attach supporting quotes from vendors or contractors**

A.	Total Project Costs	\$	
B.	Expected Annual Cost Savings	\$	
<b>C. Expected (or Anticipated) Rebates, Grants, Incentives</b>			
	1. RI Agricultural Energy Program Grant (RIAgEP)	\$	<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
	2. USDA-Rural Development (REAP)	\$	<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
	3. Commerce RI Renewable Energy Fund (REF)	\$	<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
	4. Federal Investment Tax Credit (FITC)	\$	<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
	5. Other (please list) _____	\$	<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
	<b>TOTAL D. (1+2+3+4+5)</b>	\$	<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
D.	<b>RI AgEnergy Grant Request (\$20,000 or less)</b>	\$	<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
E.	Applicant Contribution to Funding	\$	<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>
{Total Project Costs (A) – (Rebates, Grants, Incentives C+E)} divided by (Annual Cost Savings (B)) Equals Simplified Payback Years			<input style="width: 80px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> Years
<b>Section 4: PERMITS:</b> Provide a list of all necessary permits and when they will be secured for the project:			

**Section 5: SCHEDULE:** Provide a schedule of installation including design, permits, site imobilization, purchases, delivery, installtion, start up, customer training, etc. (attach additional documentation if necessary)

**Section 6: WARRANTIES:** Provide a list of all project warranties and guarantees

**Section 7: OPERATION and MAINTENANCE:** Provide operation and maintenance necessary to maintain equipment (attach additional documentation if necessary)

**Section 8: TEAM MEMBERS:** List team members and their capacity to achieve the goals of proposed project (attach additional documentation if necessary)

**6. Amount Requested**

Supported by the information provided in Section 2 and/or Section 3, above, please state your requested Agricultural Energy Grant funding request. RI RC&D has the option to negotiate the requested amount before entering into a contract with the applicant.

**TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR FUNDING THROUGH AG-ENERGY GRANT:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Maximum Amount \$20,000)

**7. Attestation**

By signing this application you attest all statements herein are accurate and true and that you have the legal authority to enter into a binding contract on behalf of the applicant. By signing this application you give permission to have a site visit by RI RC&D Ag-Energy Grant Committee staff which will be necessary before funding decision is made. All site visits will be arranged with you in advance.

By signing this application I indicate will adhere to applicable local laws, state laws and permits.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_