

Energy Initiative

Environmental Quality Incentives Program



A Bright Idea for Improving Operational Efficiency

The On-Farm Energy Initiative helps farmers make their operations more efficient and environmentally-friendly by offering payments for energy audits.

Agricultural Energy Management Plan (on-farm energy audit): An audit is a record and analysis of energy use on the farm with recommendations for improving energy conservation and efficiency. Producers can get an energy audit that covers their headquarters operations and/or their field operations.

An audit of a farm's headquarters operations examines current energy use and efficiency for buildings, equipment, and machinery. A field operations audit assesses field specific activities that require energy.

Examples include irrigation water pumping and distribution, and cropping systems activities that involve use of equipment and machinery.

NRCS provides a reference list of certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs) the farmer can contract with to prepare a report on energy use and opportunities for improvement.

NRCS reviews the report and, once approved, reimburses the farmer for the audit at a payment rate based on operation size.

Eligibility

This program is open to individuals, legal entities or joint operations who have headquarters operations or grow agricultural commodities on eligible crop or pastureland.



Climate control systems with energy efficient cooling fans can help poultry producers cut energy costs for their operations.

You must file an application for EQIP assistance at your local USDA Service Center. Higher payments are available for:

- New and beginning farmers (less than 10 years of experience),
- Socially-disadvantaged farmers
- Limited resource farmers
- Veteran farmers

How to Apply

Program sign-up is continuous with periodic evaluation and preapprovals throughout the year. Call the NRCS field office at your local USDA Service Center or visit us online at www.va.nrcs.usda.gov for more information

To find your local office, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/va/contact/.



Do you have old equipment, buildings or machinery? They could be adding more to your operating costs than you think.

NRCS can help you find ways to cut those costs, maintain or increase profitability, protect soil and water resources, and reduce on-farm generated pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Energy audits identify ways to save energy on the farm and outline estimated costs and payback periods for each improvement. Farmers can then use this information to decide which measures give them the highest benefits for their investment.

Virginia

**Natural
 Resources
 Conservation
 Service**

nrcs.va.usda.gov/

