



An Irrigator's Guide: Maximize Energy and Money with Electric

A collaborative and comprehensive effort is underway by Delaware's state, federal, and private partners to streamline resources to move farmers forward with electric-powered irrigation systems. Together, this energy-saving partnership is providing landowners with direct technical and financial assistance to conserve on-farm energy while reducing gas emissions for improved air quality. **Use the guide below to find out how you can save money and energy with your electric motor.**

Entity	Program	Description	Financial incentives provided	Eligibility Requirements	Participant obligations	Contact
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Delaware	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Technical and financial assistance to eligible farmers toward the cost of an electric motor and associated installation costs, when converting from diesel.	In FY2012, the estimated average payment was \$9,000 for an electric motor greater than 15 horsepower.	Producers who own or operate an ag operation with a natural resource concern. Must have irrigation history for 2 of 5 years on cropland or pasture land.	Install engine with HP not greater than 25% above existing engine; maintain irrigation motor to NRCS standards.	Visit your local USDA Service Center. In Sussex, 302-856-3990 x3; In Kent, 302-741-2600 x3. www.de.nrcs.usda.gov
Delaware Electric Cooperative (DEC)	Irrigation Grant Program	Financial assistance to help farmers install electric service for systems currently using a diesel distributed generator.	Up to \$7,500 to run power lines to converted irrigation systems.	Irrigation systems with a load of 20 kW or more are eligible for \$7,500.	Agree to a load program that allows DEC control of the availability of electric power during high peak hours.	www.delaware.coop/our-co-op; Kevin Yingling, 302-349-3120
The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)	Energy Efficiency Investment Fund	Grants available to DEC members for conversion of the irrigation motors from diesel to electric.	The grant provides 30 percent of the total non-utility cost of the conversion.	DEC members converting from diesel-powered irrigation systems to electric motors.	Must meet application criteria, which includes signing an agreement showing low or no use of old diesel engine.	www.delaware.coop/our-co-op; Kevin Yingling, 302-349-3120
USDA Rural Development (RD)	Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)	Grants available to help agricultural producers purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements in rural areas.	Recipients can receive up to 25 percent of the total cost of the project through REAP. An eligible project includes landowner costs of installation of three-phase transmission power lines.	Ag producers with 50% income from ag business or rural small businesses meeting SBA's standards.	Participants cannot apply for EQIP and REAP funding for the same practice.	Bruce Weaver, 302-857-3629; www.rurdev.usda.gov/MD_Energy_Grants.html
Delaware Economic Development Office	Delaware Rural Irrigation Program (DRIP)	Interest free loans for the purchase and installation of new irrigation systems.	Applicant can borrow 25% or \$25,000 (whichever is less) for purchase and installation of irrigation systems on non-irrigated land.	Farmer must be actively engaged in growing and harvesting of cash crops for two years, own or lease the land, and newly irrigated land must be in Delaware.	Applicant may apply once per year. Irrigation system and well work must be performed by a Delaware contractor.	James Pennewell, 302-672-6807; james.pennewell@state.de.us; Cassie Porter, 302-672-6836 cassie.porter@state.de.us www.dedo.delaware.gov/drip