

# Agricultural Energy Management Plans

Agricultural Energy Management Plans are a new opportunity for Vermont agricultural producers that identify how you can be more energy efficient and save on your energy costs.



## What is an Agricultural Energy Management Plan?

An Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) is an analysis of current farm infrastructure and management with recommendations about how to reduce energy consumption on the farm. This includes purchased fuels, electricity, and renewable energy sources used to perform farm activities. These plans can be done for each farm enterprise: a livestock production system, a field crop system, and specialized non-livestock operations such as greenhouses, cold storage, or maple syrup production. This provides you with cost effective ways to reduce operating costs while saving energy.

## What Will I Gain?

The AgEMP is tailored to the individual farm. It determines and documents current energy usage over the past annual cycle, and provides cost-effective energy conservation alternatives and recommendations for each farm enterprise. The evaluation of energy conservation activities includes energy used in the cultivation, protection, harvesting, processing and storage of agricultural crops and in the feeding, housing, and processing of farm animals and animal products, and wildlife enhancement activities.

## Who Will Develop My Plan?

Your Agricultural Energy Management Plan will be developed by a qualified professional. You may choose from an approved list of certified, registered Technical Service Providers (TSPs) who help producers with assistance for specific conservation programs administered by USDA. Names are available from your local NRCS office or from the Technical Service Provider Registry (<http://techreg.usda.gov/>).

## How Much Will This Cost?

You will receive payment from NRCS when the plan is certified complete. The NRCS payment is estimated to be a portion of the total amount you will pay for the plan – 75% for general applicants, and 90% for historically underserved applicants. (For more information about historically underserved groups, consult your local NRCS office or [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB\\_Farmer/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_Farmer/) ) Efficiency Vermont will provide additional funding towards the balance due the TSP for certain AgEMPs.

## Who Is Eligible?

An agricultural operation that has not already received a USDA payment for an energy audit through any USDA conservation program may be eligible. Since an AgEMP is funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) you must meet certain minimum EQIP requirements. The plan must be completed within twelve months of contract signing.

## What Is The Application Deadline?

An AgEMP is a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP). This component of EQIP is for specialized, in-depth plans that address specific resources and can be used to improve management. CAPs are on a first-come first-served basis (depending on funding availability) as the applications are received and certified as eligible, without regard to ranking.

## Are Funds For Implementation Available?

Your AgEMP will identify financial assistance opportunities that are appropriate to your particular situation. Some management recommendations can be implemented at minimal cost. Depending on your particular situation, other recommendations in your AgEMP could be part of a subsequent application for assistance through NRCS programs such as EQIP. Certain options in your plan may be eligible for funding through organizations such as Efficiency Vermont or USDA Rural Development.

## How Do I Apply?

Contact your local NRCS field office for an application and begin your eligibility paperwork:

**Addison County**  
802-388-6748

**Caledonia & Essex Counties**  
802-748-2641

**Chittenden County**  
802-865-7895

**Orange & Washington Counties**  
802-828-4493

**Franklin & Grand Isle Counties**  
802-527-1296

**Lamoille County**  
802-888-4935

**Orleans County**  
802-334-6090

**Bennington & Rutland Counties**  
802-775-8034

**Windham County**  
802-254-9766

**Windsor County**  
802-295-7942

<http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov>

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