



# Tribal Conservation Advisory Council

Rural Development  
Inflation Reduction Act Opportunities  
January 2023

# USDA Rural Development Programs

## **Rural Utility Service (RUS)**

- Electric
- Water & Environmental
- High Speed Internet

## **Rural Business & Cooperative Programs**

- Rural Energy for America (REAP)
- Capital investments

## **Rural Community Facilities**

- Buildings
- Equipment

## **Rural Housing Service**

- Single Family Home ownership
- Home repairs

More than 50 different loans, grants, guaranteed loan programs—we would be glad to further discuss!

# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022

The new law provides an unprecedented level of investment in rural clean energy.

It is fair to say that the IRA is the largest financial commitment to rural electrification since the enactment of the Rural Electrification Act in 1936.

# The IRA includes...

- Two exciting new programmatic initiatives for the RUS
- Admin support for RD & USDA implementation
- Direct-pay tax benefits for coop investments in clean energy
- Increased RBCS investments in REAP and Bio-refineries

# RUS – Electric Loans

- Additional funding for electric loans to finance wind, solar, hydro-power, biomass, or geothermal sources on a utility scale.
- Support rural electric cooperatives for long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric systems.



# RBCS - Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

## Alternative Energy Investments

- Renewable energy systems

- Zero-emissions systems

- Carbon capture and storage



## Energy Efficiency Investments

- Reduce utility costs

- Increase bottom line

- Reduce carbon footprint



## Energy Efficiency Eligible Projects



Lighting



Heating



Cooling



Ventilation



Fans



Automated Controls



Insulation



Rural Development  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Eligible Projects for Renewable Energy



- Solar



- Wind



- Hydroelectric (below 30 megawatts)



- Anaerobic digesters



- Biomass



- Geothermal



- Wave



# Rural Energy for America Program

- Eligible Applicants
  - Rural Small Businesses--Small business size standards:  
<https://www.sba.gov/document/support-table-size-standards>
  - Agricultural Producers (rural area not required)
- Notice of solicitation of application for the Rural Energy for America Program for FY 2023:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/12/16/2022-27359/notice-of-solicitation-of-applications-for-the-rural-energy-for-america-program-for-fiscal-year-2023>
- UEI Number: <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>
- SAM Registration: <https://www.sam.gov/>

# Rural Energy for America Program

## Maximum Grant Amount:

- Renewable energy system - Increased to 40% of the total project cost or \$1 million, whichever is less (*was 25% of the total project cost or \$500,000, whichever was less*).
- Energy Efficiency Improvement - Increased to 40% of the total project cost or \$500,000 million, whichever is less (*was 25% of the total project cost or \$250,000, whichever was less*).

## Grant Deadlines

- Applications are accepted year-round, but the deadline to submit for FY23 grant funding is 03/31/23.

## REAP Guaranteed Loan

- Amount, term, rates etc. negotiated between lender and borrower
- Applications accepted year round
- 25% required borrower contribution to project
- Lender applies to USDA requesting a guarantee

# Webinar for Tribes

## USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) IRA Roundtable –

- RUS is hosting virtual roundtable discussions for the IRA of 2022. This session is aimed at promoting renewable energy development in tribal communities and allows the opportunity for direct roundtable discussions with RUS.
- Tuesday, January 24, 2023 | 3:00 p.m. EST
- [https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_WNypLWsgTmS9lUMqumBoFg](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_WNypLWsgTmS9lUMqumBoFg)

# Program Contacts

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/electric-programs>

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<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-programs/rural-energy-america-program-renewable-energy-systems-energy-efficiency-improvement-guaranteed-loans/wa>



# Full List of USDA Rural Development Programs



- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/page/all-programs>

# Telecommunications Program Overview

- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
- Rural Broadband Program
- Community Connect Grant Program
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program
- ReConnect Program



# Other USDA Rural Development Resources

- Broadband Resources for Rural America:  
[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/508\\_rd\\_broadband\\_usda\\_guide\\_2021\\_102621.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/508_rd_broadband_usda_guide_2021_102621.pdf)
- Disaster Resiliency and Recovery Guide:  
[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rd\\_disastertoolkit-final508.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rd_disastertoolkit-final508.pdf)
- EDA Joint Planning Resource Guide:  
[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/508F\\_RD\\_EDA\\_JointPlanningResourceGuide.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/508F_RD_EDA_JointPlanningResourceGuide.pdf)
- Joint Childcare Resource Guide:  
[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rd\\_hhs-acf\\_jointchildcareresourceguide.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rd_hhs-acf_jointchildcareresourceguide.pdf)
- Recreation Economy:  
[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard\\_recreational\\_economy508.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard_recreational_economy508.pdf)

# Other USDA Rural Development Resources

- Resources for Rural Entrepreneurs:

[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usda\\_rd\\_federalentrepreneurshipguide.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usda_rd_federalentrepreneurshipguide.pdf)

- Rural Workforce Guide:

[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard\\_ruralworkforceguide508.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard_ruralworkforceguide508.pdf)

- Rural Workforce Innovation Network (RWIN):

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/rwin>

- Innovation Matters (e-newsletter). To subscribe:

<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDARD/signup/31879>

- Collaborating for Prosperity With American Indians and Alaska Natives:

[https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard\\_2019tribalreport.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/usdard_2019tribalreport.pdf)



# Let's Connect!

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