



AGRICULTURE ENERGY PROJECT FUNDING MATRIX

How to use this tool

This tool is a guide to available funding for on-farm energy projects. The organizations included in this resource have project-type dependent funding and technical resources available that can be combined to best serve your energy project.

STEP ONE: Identify organizations in Summary

STEP TWO: Read the description of each relevant organization

STEP THREE: Check which organizations line up with your Project Type

- If your project type is not found, please contact the organizations in the Summary to inquire about custom projects and special circumstances

STEP FOUR: Reach out to the contacts listed for each organization

STEP ONE: Summary

Please **see attached list of Project Types** to determine if your project is a good fit for each organization's different offers.

Contact organization representatives to find out more and receive one on one assistance.

| | Efficiency Vermont | USDA Rural Development | NE Dairy Business Innovation Center | NRCS | VHCB REDI | VHCB Farm & Forest Viability | VHCB Water Quality Grant | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | VAAFM Water Quality Division | VT Forest Parks and Recreation - Forest Economy Program |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|-----------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Dairy Equipment | X | X | X | X | | | | X | X | X |
| Maple Equipment | X | X | | X | | | | X | | X |
| Greenhouse Equipment | X | X | | X | | | | x | | X |
| Water Management | | | | X | | | X | | X | |
| Manure Management | X | | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| Technical and/or Grant Writing Assistance | X | X | | X | X | X | | | X | |

STEP TWO: Organizations

Efficiency Vermont: Provides on-farm energy assessments, technical assistance, custom project incentives and equipment rebates.

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center: Supports dairy farmers and processors through grants, access to technical services, education, and events that promote the development, production, marketing, and distribution of regional dairy products.

NRCS: Offers technical and financial assistance to producers/landowners for conservation practices on their land and to address resource concerns/issues. Producer would receive a cost-share contract, where payment per practice is calculated to 75% of what typical practices would cost. For historically underserved producers, the cost would be up to 90%.

USDA Rural Development: Offers technical assistance, loans, grants and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services. The Rural Energy for America Program grant is the main resource available for energy projects.

Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) Farm and Forest Viability: Offers business planning and technical assistance to commercial scale farm, food, and forest businesses through a 1:1 business advising program; up to two years of assistance; \$75 enrollment fee

VHCB Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI): Provides grant writing assistance to farm, food, and forest businesses based in communities of less than 5,000 people. Focused on grant applications of approximately \$40,000; can also fund other forms of technical assistance required to submit a grant application.

VHCB Water Quality Grant: Competitive annual grant program that provides up to \$50,000 in grant to farms for on-farm water quality improvement projects.

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI): Provides grants and contracts, ranging from \$5,000 to \$250,000, to support enterprises and service providers across the farm, forest, and food sectors in Vermont.

VAAFM (Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets) Water Quality Division: Provides technical and financial assistance programs for farmers to improve and protect water quality.

Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation (VT FPR): Administers Wood Innovation Grant which provides up to \$25,000 per project for both installation and repair costs to advanced wood heating systems.

STEP THREE: Product types

Maple Equipment

| | Efficiency Vermont | USDA Rural Development | NRCS | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | VT FPR - Forest Economy Program |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| First Time RO System | Up to \$3,250 rebate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | \$16.40-\$40.40gal/hr | <p>Business Enhancement Grant</p> <p>*WLEI can fund most types of energy efficiency projects. WLEI strongly recommends that anyone needing energy efficiency upgrades or projects specifically focused on renewable energy should first explore and apply for other programs because WLEI grants are typically very competitive and not specifically focused on energy efficiency. WLEI grants may be able to supplement other funding sources for energy-related projects.</p> | |
| High Brix RO System | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | | | |
| Vacuum Pump | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | | | |
| Advanced Wood Heating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Heating Pellet Stove (new), up to \$6,000 rebate Wood/Pellet Stove, \$400 discount at time of purchase with participating retailers | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood Innovation Grant Installation/Repairs \$25,000 per project |
| Efficient Evaporator | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | Varies depending on system | | |
| Variable Frequency Drives | \$300 rebate for 24hr run time during maple season | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | | | |
| Custom Project - Fossil Fuel Reduction | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | | | |
| Custom Project - Energy Efficiency Upgrade | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | | | |
| Replacement RO System | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | | | |
| Solar Panels | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | | | |
| Wind Power | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement Energy audit required | | | |
| Preheaters | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sap: \$133.19-\$159.83/sf Steam Enhanced: \$394.65-\$1118.32/sf Maple Syrup: \$492.62-1132.26/sf | | |
| Oil-fired Evaporator, Paramedic Control | | | \$592.39-\$710.87/sf | | |

Dairy Equipment

| | Efficiency Vermont | NE-Dairy Business Innovation Center | USDA Rural Development | NRCS | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | VT FPR - Forest Economy Program |
|---|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Advanced Wood Heating | Primary Heating Pellet Stove (new), up to \$6,000 rebate Wood/Pellet Stove, \$400 discount at time of purchase with participating retailers | | | | Business Enhancement Grant *WLEI can fund most types of energy efficiency projects. WLEI strongly recommends that anyone needing energy efficiency upgrades or projects specifically focused on renewable energy should first explore and apply for other programs because WLEI grants are typically very competitive and not specifically focused on energy efficiency. WLEI grants may be able to supplement other funding sources for energy-related projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood Innovation Grant • Installation/ Repairs • \$25,000 per project |
| Bulk Storage Tanks | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | | | |
| Variable Speed Pumps | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | Varies depending on system | | |
| New Plate Coolers | Minimum of 75 milking heads, Up to \$3,000 rebate | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | \$4188.84-5026.60 | | |
| LED Lighting | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | | | \$9.37-154.62 | | |
| Variable Frequency Drives on Vacuum Pump | Minimum of 50 milking heads, up to \$1,125 rebate | | | Varies depending on system | | |
| Ventilation Fans | Pre-Qualification Form, Custom Analysis if project combined with Variable Frequency Drive | Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant up to \$50,000 | | | | |
| Food Safety Flooring | | Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant up to \$50,000 | | | | |
| Automatic Push Feeder | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | | | |
| Anaerobic Digester Heat Recovery | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REAP grant • 50% reimbursement | | | |
| Solar Panels | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REAP grant • 50% reimbursement | | | |
| Wind Power | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REAP grant • 50% reimbursement | | | |
| Solar Thermal Heat | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REAP grant • 50% reimbursement | | | |
| Refrigeration - Condensing Units - Compressors - Other | Custom Incentive Analysis and Technical Assistance for comprehensive refrigeration operation and individual pieces of equipment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant up to \$50,000 • Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | Scroll Compressor: \$1592.82-1911.38 | | |
| Custom Project - Energy Efficiency Upgrade | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REAP grant • 50% reimbursement | | | |
| Heat Recovery Units | Minimum 35 milking heads, up to \$1875 rebate | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | | | |
| Wash Systems | If switching from oil to electric hot water heater, Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | | | |

Dairy Equipment (continued)

| | Efficiency Vermont | NE-Dairy Business Innovation Center | USDA Rural Development | NRCS | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | VT FPR - Forest Economy Program |
|---|--|--|------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| Grain Driers | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | | | | Business Enhancement Grant *WLEI can fund most types of energy efficiency projects. WLEI strongly recommends that anyone needing energy efficiency upgrades or projects specifically focused on renewable energy should first explore and apply for other programs because WLEI grants are typically very competitive and not specifically focused on energy efficiency. WLEI grants may be able to supplement other funding sources for energy-related projects. | |
| Air to Water Heat Pumps | For new heat pump \$1,000/ton up to 6 tons in coordination with your Distribution Utility | | | | | |
| Ground Source Heat Pumps | Tiered rebate based on system tonnage: less than ten 2100/ton, 10-20 tons 1500/ton, 20-50 1000/ton, Contact Efficiency Vermont for Additional Assistance | | | | | |
| Robotic Milkers | | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | | | |
| Vat Pasteurizers | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dairy Processor Modernization up to \$350,000 and must be part of larger modernization project Dairy Food Safety and Certification Grant up to \$50,000 if switching from raw to pasteurized products | | | | |
| Bottlers/Fillers | | Dairy Processor Modernization up to \$350,000 and must be part of larger modernization project | | | | |
| Weatherization | Contact Efficiency Vermont for Worker Housing Weatherization Assistance, 75% cost up to \$5,000 in non-rent payment based existing conditioned space | If related to animal health/comfort: Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | Attic Insulation: \$0.69-0.83/sf Wall Insulation: \$2.02-2.43/sf | | |
| 3-Phase Conversion | If purchasing new equipment along with phase conversion Contact Efficiency Vermont for Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | | | | | |
| Replacement of Internal Combustion Engine with Electric Engine (Tractor, Other Mobile Equipment) | | | | Contact for detailed information on a variety of qualifying products | | |
| Automatic Controller System | | | | \$1767.69-2121.22 Lighting: \$383.90-460.68 | | |

Greenhouse Equipment

| | Efficiency Vermont | USDA Rural Development | NRCS | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | VT FPR - Forest Economy Program |
|--|--|---|----------------------------|--|--|
| Advanced Wood Heating | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Heating Pellet Stove (new), up to \$6,000 rebate Wood/Pellet Stove, \$400 discount at time of purchase with participating retailers | | | Business Enhancement Grant *WLEI can fund most types of energy efficiency projects. WLEI strongly recommends that anyone needing energy efficiency upgrades or projects specifically focused on renewable energy should first explore and apply for other programs because WLEI grants are typically very competitive and not specifically focused on energy efficiency. WLEI grants may be able to supplement other funding sources for energy-related projects. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood Innovation Grant Installation/ Repairs \$25,000 per project |
| LED Lighting | Up to 30% cash back | | \$9.37-154.62 | | |
| Thermal and Shade Curtains (Greenhouse Screens) | Up to 50 cents/sq ft | | \$2.30 - 4.20 | | |
| Solar Panels | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement | | | |
| Wind Power | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement | | | |
| Solar Thermal Heat | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> REAP grant 50% reimbursement | | | |
| Full Structure Energy Modeling | For new greenhouse construction | | | | |
| Controller | Up to 10 cents/sq ft | | | | |
| Polyethylene Upgrade | With IR film, Contact Efficiency Vermont for Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | | \$383.90-460.68 | | |
| Exhaust/Circulation Fans | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | | Varies depending on system | | |
| Polycarbonate or Glass Panel Upgrades | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | | | | |
| Variable Frequency Drives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$200/HP rebate for 2-5 HP motors or pumps \$150/HP rebate for 7.5-100 HP motors or pumps | | | | |
| Greenhouse Roof Vent | | | | | \$57.45-68.93/ft |
| Greenhouse Step Controller System | | | | | \$907.77-\$1089.32 |
| Heating (Building/small room) | | | | | \$22.05-47.83/kBTU/Hr |
| High Efficiency Hot Water Heater | | | | | \$2578.58-3094.29 |
| Root Zone Heating | | | | | \$3.34-4.01/ft |
| Ventilation | | | | | \$350.68-2017.43 |
| Attic Insulation | | | | | \$0.69-0.83/sf |
| Bubble Insulation | | | | | \$0.48-0.58/sf |
| Greenhouse Solid Insulation | | | | | \$1.07-1.29/sf |
| Sealant | | | | | \$1.35-1.62/ft |
| Wall Insulation | | | | | \$2.02-2.43/sf |

Water Management

| | Efficiency Vermont | NRCS | VHCB Water Quality Grant | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | VAAFM Water Quality Division |
|--|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Irrigation Lines | If results in decreased use of tractor Contact Efficiency Vermont for Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | Varies depending on the system | | Business Enhancement Grant *WLEI can fund most types of energy efficiency projects. WLEI strongly recommends that anyone needing energy efficiency upgrades or projects specifically focused on renewable energy should first explore and apply for other programs because WLEI grants are typically very competitive and not specifically focused on energy efficiency. WLEI grants may be able to supplement other funding sources for energy-related projects. | |
| Pond | | Varies depending on the system | Discuss project with staff | | |
| Irrigation Reservoir | | Varies depending on the system | | | |
| Irrigation System, Microirrigation | | Varies depending on the system | | | |
| Sprinkler System | | Varies depending on the system | | | |
| Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface | | Varies depending on the system | | | |
| Irrigation Water Management | | Varies depending on the system | | | |
| Pond Sealing or Lining | | Varies depending on the system | Discuss project with staff | | BMP Program |
| Pumping Plant | | Varies depending on the system | Discuss project with staff | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMP Program Pasture & Surface Water Fencing Program |
| Spring Development | | Varies depending on the system | | | Pasture & Surface Water Fencing Program |
| Water Well | | Varies depending on the system | | | Pasture & Surface Water Fencing Program |

Manure Management

| | Efficiency Vermont | NE-Dairy Business Innovation Center | NRCS | VHCB Water Quality Grant | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | VAAFM Water Quality |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| Roofed Concrete Structures | | | | | Business Enhancement Grant *WLEI can fund most types of energy efficiency projects. WLEI strongly recommends that anyone needing energy efficiency upgrades or projects specifically focused on renewable energy should first explore and apply for other programs because WLEI grants are typically very competitive and not specifically focused on energy efficiency. WLEI grants may be able to supplement other funding sources for energy-related projects. | BMP- if tied to waste management |
| Separators Waste Separation Facility | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | | Varies depending on system | Discuss project with staff | | BMP Program |
| Manure Pit Covers | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | | Varies depending on system | | | BMP – Technical Assistance Only |
| Draglining | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | Varies depending on system | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BMP Program CEAP |
| Pump Motors | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | | Varies depending on system | | | |
| Manure Scrapers | Custom Analysis and Technical Assistance | Farm Improvement and Modernization Grant Fall 2025 | | Discuss project with staff | | |
| Digestors | | | Varies depending on system | | | BMP – Technical Assistance Only |
| Waste Storage Facility (313) | | | Varies depending on system | | | BMP Program |
| Composting Facility (317) | | | Varies depending on system | | | BMP Program |
| Pond Sealing and Lining | | | Varies depending on system | | | BMP Program |
| Heavy Use Area Protection (Barnyards) | | | Varies depending on system | | | BMP Program |

Manure Management (continued)

| | Efficiency Vermont | NE-Dairy Business Innovation Center | NRCS | VHCB Water Quality Grant | Working Lands Enterprise Initiative | VAAFM Water Quality |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Nutrient Management *also applies to crops and fertilizer | | | Varies depending on system | Discuss project with staff | Business Enhancement Grant | |
| Waste Water Treatment Milkhouse | | | Varies depending on system | | *WLEI can fund most types of energy efficiency projects. WLEI strongly recommends that anyone needing energy efficiency upgrades or projects specifically focused on renewable energy should first explore and apply for other programs because WLEI grants are typically very competitive and not specifically focused on energy efficiency. WLEI grants may be able to supplement other funding sources for energy-related projects. | BMP Program |
| Waste Treatment | | | Varies depending on system | | | BMP Program |
| Waste Recycling | | | Varies depending on system | Discuss project with staff | | |
| Waste Transfer | | | Varies depending on system | | | BMP Program |
| Manure Injection or Compost Management Equipment | | | | | | CEAP |

STEP FOUR: Contact Organizations

Efficiency Vermont

Jen Severidt, Account Manager (Dairy)
jseveridt@veic.org
802-540-7768

Julia Spelman, Account Manager (Non-Dairy)
jspelman@veic.org
802-540-7834

Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center

Ali Boochever, Grants Coordinator
ali.boochever@vermont.gov
802-261-5740

Ben Eldredge, Grants Coordinator
Ben.Eldredge@vermont.gov
802-522-9478

NRCS

Northwest Zone (Grand Isle, Franklin, Lamoille):
Sarah Larose, Zone District Conservationist
Sarah.larose@usda.gov
802-503-9202

Northeast Zone (Orleans, Essex, Caledonia, Orange):
Dave Blodgett, Zone District Conservationist
David.blodgett@usda.gov
802-624-7013

Central Zone (Chittenden, Washington, Addison):
Marybeth Whitten, Zone District Conservationist
Marybeth.whitten@usda.gov
802-771-3038

South Zone (Rutland, Windsor, Bennington, Windham):
Phylicia J. Moore, Zone District Conservationist
Phylicia.moore@usda.gov
802-774-8034

USDA Rural Development

Tracy Rexford, Energy Programs Coordinator (REAP contact)
Tracy.Rexford@usda.gov
802-828-6070

VAAFM Water Quality Division

AGR.WaterQuality@vermont.gov
802-828-2431

Vermont Department of Forest Parks and Recreation

Molly Willard, Wood Energy and Forest Products Specialist
molly.willard@vermont.gov
802-261-1681

VHCB Farm & Forest Viability Program

Calley Hastings, Program Manager
c.hastings@vhcb.org
802-828-3370

VHCB REDI

Mariah Noth, Program Manager
Mariah@vhcb.org
802-828-1098

VHCB Water Quality Grants

Betsy McGavisk, Program Coordinator
b.mcgavisk@vhcb.org
802-828-5562

Working Lands Enterprise Initiative

Clare Salerno
clare.salerno@vermont.gov
802-917-2637

VERMONT
FARM &
FOREST
VIABILITY
PROGRAM

NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS
INNOVATION CENTER



To learn more, call 888-921-5990
or visit efficiencyvermont.com



Translation
available

