



# Funding for Food Waste Reduction Projects

## USDA Rural Development

### Introduction

USDA Rural Development invests in rural America with loan, grant, and loan guarantee programs because we understand a strong community is rooted in its people. The commitment and resources we bring to rural communities helps drive economic security and prosperity. This guide focuses on RD programs that support funding, investment, and outreach to address food loss, waste reduction, reuse, and composting.

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A note about website links: For ease of reference, this guide provides links to relevant, useful information hosted outside the USDA domain. Federal endorsement of non-USDA programs or activities is neither intended nor implied. Please be aware that when you access information through a link provided in this document, you are subject to the copyright and licensing restrictions of those sites. All links in this document were active as of September 2022. Please email hyperlink errors to [rd.multimedia@usda.gov](mailto:rd.multimedia@usda.gov).



# Rural Development Funding for Food Loss Reduction Projects



## WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Program name and link	Overview	Who can apply?	How to apply
<b>Solid Waste Management Grants</b>  Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzBE7">https://go.usa.gov/xzBE7</a>	This program helps reduce or eliminate water pollution by providing funding to eligible organizations that provide technical assistance and training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. Funds can be used to evaluate current landfill conditions to identify threats to water resources, and provide technical assistance and training on the operation, maintenance, closure and future use of landfills.	This program is open to government organizations, private organizations, nonprofit organizations, federally-recognized Tribes, and academic institutions that serve rural areas with populations of 10,000 or fewer. Check to see if your area is eligible at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xz7kz">https://go.usa.gov/xz7kz</a> . Special consideration is given to projects serving areas with than 5,500 or 2,500 residents, to regional, multistate, or national areas, and to lower-income populations.	Applications are accepted annually at grants.gov (available at this link: <a href="https://www.grants.com">https://www.grants.com</a> ).
<b>Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants</b>  Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzBUD">https://go.usa.gov/xzBUD</a>	This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary wastewater and solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. Funds can be used to buy, build, repair, and improve public water and waste treatment and collection systems.	This program is open to government organizations, nonprofit organizations, and federally-recognized Tribes in rural areas with populations of 10,000 or fewer.	Applications are accepted year-round and can be filed electronically using RD Apply at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xhWBk">https://go.usa.gov/xhWBk</a> , or at the USDA Rural Development office where your proposed project is located. You'll find a state-based list of offices at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xShSz">https://go.usa.gov/xShSz</a> .



# Rural Development Funding for Food Loss Reduction Projects



## ELECTRIC PROGRAMS

Program name and link	Overview	Who can apply?	How to apply
<p><b>Electric Program Loans, Grants, and Loan Guarantees</b></p> <p>Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xhZvV">https://go.usa.gov/xhZvV</a></p>	<p>Securing and maintaining reliable, affordable electricity is essential to economic well-being and improving rural quality of life. Our Electric Program provides access to capital and technical assistance to help maintain, expand, and modernize the country's vast rural infrastructure.</p>	<p>Generally speaking, Electric Program funds are available to wholesale and retail providers of electricity that serve customers in rural areas. Examples include cooperatives and limited dividend or mutual associations, state and local government organizations, and for-profit businesses organized as corporations or limited liability companies.</p>	<p>Application processes vary by program. You can email your questions to <a href="mailto:ElectricProgramCustomerService@usda.gov">ElectricProgramCustomerService@usda.gov</a></p>



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## ELECTRIC PROGRAMS

Program name and link	Overview	Who can apply?	How to apply
<b>Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loans</b>  Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzWxP">https://go.usa.gov/xzWxP</a>	This program provides pass-through funding for energy efficiency and conservation projects for residential, commercial, and industrial consumers. Funds can be used by eligible utilities – including existing Rural Utilities Service Electric Program borrowers – to develop and deliver new, diverse energy service products in their service territories. For example, an existing RUS borrower can set up on-bill financing in which customers undertake energy efficiency improvements “behind the meter,” and then repay the loan to the utility.	Eligible applicants include utility systems that directly or indirectly provide retail electric service in rural areas with populations of 20,000 or fewer, or in any area in which an <b>existing</b> RUS Electric Program borrower has an active loan. Eligible communities can combine into service territories with populations greater than 20,000.	You can contact the Electric Program General Field Representative that serves the state in which your service area is located to learn more about program requirements. A state-based list is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xhrwd">https://go.usa.gov/xhrwd</a> .
<b>High Energy Cost Grants</b>  Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzWaF">https://go.usa.gov/xzWaF</a>	This program helps energy providers and other eligible organizations lower energy costs for people in areas with extremely high (275 percent or more above the national average) per-household energy costs. Among other things, funds can be used to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of electric generation and transmission facilities, and to implement renewable energy generation and energy efficiency and conservation measures.	Eligible areas must be located in the United States, its territories, or areas otherwise legally determined eligible to participate in USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Service programs. Applicants must demonstrate their area meets high energy cost benchmarks detailed on grants.gov at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzWCq">https://go.usa.gov/xzWCq</a> . There are no population restrictions associated with this grant.	Applications are accepted through the USDA Rural Development national office. A list of Rural Utilities Service Electric Programs contacts is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xhrVH">https://go.usa.gov/xhrVH</a> .



# Rural Development Funding for Food Loss Reduction Projects





## BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

Program name and link	Overview	Who can apply?	How to apply
<div><b>Business and Industry Loan Guarantees</b></div> <div>Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzDXv">https://go.usa.gov/xzDXv</a></div>	<p>This program offers loan guarantees to lenders for their loans to rural businesses. Funds can be used for business conversions, expansion, repair, modernization, or development. Funds also can be used to purchase land, buildings, equipment, supplies, and inventory, and to develop infrastructure. Certain debt refinancing and business and industrial acquisitions are also permitted.</p>	<p>This program is open to lenders with the legal authority, financial strength, and sufficient experience to operate a successful lending program. This includes federal and state-chartered banks, savings and loans, farm credit banks, and credit unions lending to a business in rural areas with populations of 50,000 or fewer. The borrower's headquarters can be based in a larger city if the project is in an eligible rural area. The lender can be located anywhere in the U.S. Certain food system projects can be funded in rural and urban areas.</p>	<p>Applications are accepted in our local offices year-round. You'll find a state-based list at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xShSz">https://go.usa.gov/xShSz</a>.</p>



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## BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS

Program name and link	Overview	Who can apply?	How to apply
<p><b>Rural Energy for America Program Energy Audits and Renewable Energy Development Grants</b></p> <p>Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzDwc">https://go.usa.gov/xzDwc</a></p>	<p>REAP provides technical and renewable energy assistance to rural small businesses and agricultural producers. Grants of up to \$100,000 can be used for energy audits and renewable energy development. This program helps strengthen American energy independence by increasing the private-sector supply of renewable energy. Over time, these investments can also help lower energy costs for small businesses and agricultural producers. Our energy grants help heat homes, power cars, and run businesses with renewable energy from wind, solar, and biofuels.</p>	<p>The program is open to state and local governments, federally-recognized Tribes, land-grant universities and other institutions of higher education, rural electric cooperatives, public power entities, and resource conservation and development councils. Businesses must be in rural areas with populations fewer than 50,000. You can check to see if your area is eligible at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xz7kz">https://go.usa.gov/xz7kz</a>. Population restrictions do not apply to agricultural producers.</p>	<p>Applications are accepted year-round at our local offices. You'll find a state-based list at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xShSz">https://go.usa.gov/xShSz</a>.</p>






# Rural Development Funding for Food Loss Reduction Projects



## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Program name and link	Overview	Who can apply?	How to apply
<b>Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants</b>  Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzDvz">https://go.usa.gov/xzDvz</a>	These programs help finance construction of – or improvements to – essential community facilities such as hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, certain schools, child care centers, libraries, and town halls, among others. Funds also can be used to purchase necessary equipment and pay for related project expenses. Although CF program funds cannot support private, commercial, or business undertakings, in some instances, loans and grants can be combined with commercial financing to support a project.	Eligible applicants include government organizations, community-based nonprofit corporations, and federally-recognized Tribes. Direct loans and grants are available in rural areas with populations of <b>20,000 or fewer</b> . Loan guarantees are available in rural areas with populations of <b>50,000 or fewer</b> .	Lenders interested in learning more about the loan guarantee program can contact the USDA Rural Development Community Programs director in the state in which the proposed project is located. You'll find a state-based list at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xShSz">https://go.usa.gov/xShSz</a> . Applications are accepted year-round in our local offices.
<b>Community Facilities Loan Guarantees</b>  Information is available at this link: <a href="https://go.usa.gov/xzDw7">https://go.usa.gov/xzDw7</a>			



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