



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Rural Development



USDA Energy Efficiency Programs

Overview and Update

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USDA Strategic Objective & Goal

1. Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, and with integrity and a Focus on customer service.
2. Maximize the ability of American agricultural producers to prosper by feeding and clothing the world.
3. Promote American agricultural products and exports.
4. Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development.
5. Strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research.
6. Foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System lands.
7. Provide all Americans access to a safe, nutritious and secure food supply.



“To expand rural business opportunity and rural quality of life with access to capital; improve infrastructure, broadband access and connectivity; and support workforce availability”

Agenda

- Snapshot of Current USDA Energy Programs
- Rural Energy Savings Program 2018 Changes

High Energy Cost Grants (HECG)

Assists energy providers and other eligible entities in lowering energy costs for families and individuals in areas with extremely high per-household energy costs (275 percent of the national average or higher.)

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/high-energy-cost-grants>

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Loan Program (EECLP)

EECLP provides loans to finance energy efficiency and conservation projects for utility borrowers at Treasury rates for relending for energy efficiency projects.

- <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/energy-efficiency-and-conservation-loan-program>

Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG)

Relending program run through utilities and others that provide zero interest loans and grants as an incubator for job creation and enhancement, education and training, and start up venture costs for rural areas.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-economic-development-loan-grant-program>

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) provides Grants and Guaranteed Loan funding for Renewable Energy System Installations and Energy Efficiency Improvements for Agriculture Producers and Rural Small Businesses

https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/RD_FactSheet_RBS_REAP_RE_EE.pdf

Rural Energy savings Program (RESP)

RESP (Direct RUS Loan)

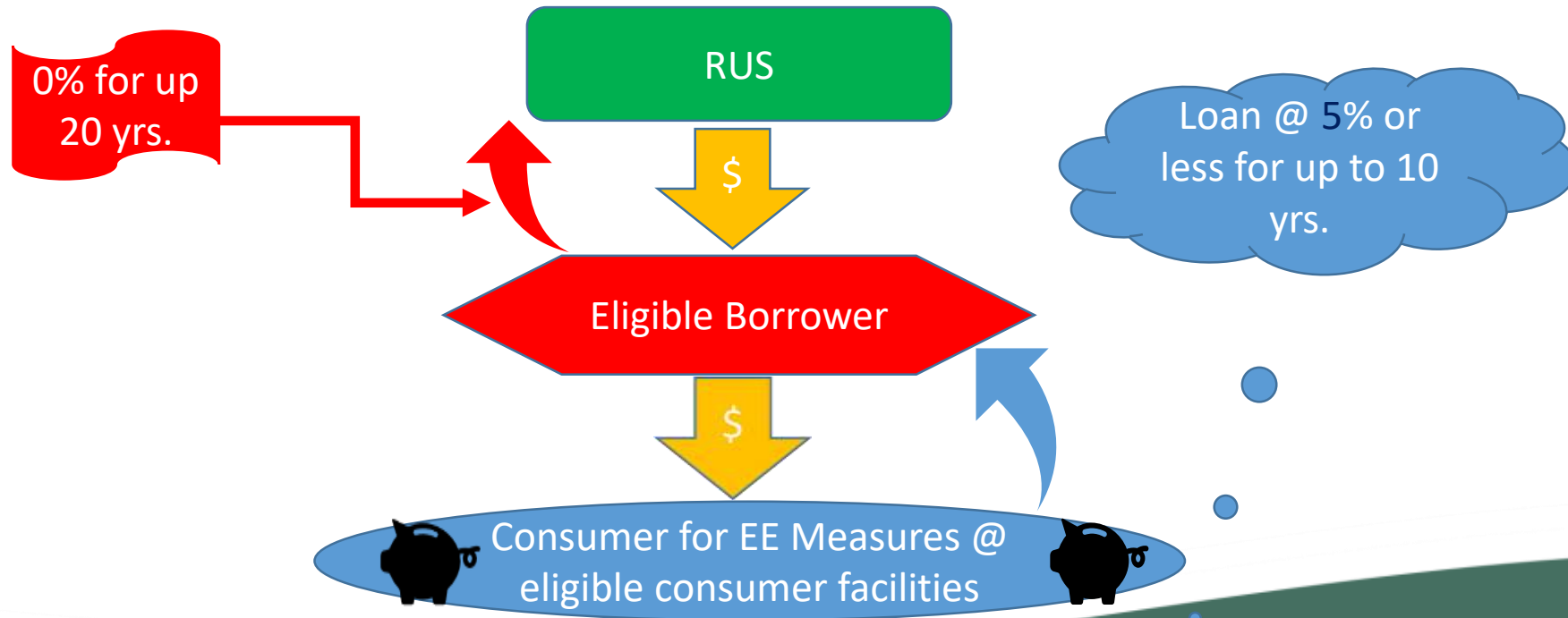
- Help rural families and small businesses achieve cost savings through loans that would enable them to implement durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures.
- Authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 and reauthorized by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.
- The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018

Rural Energy Savings Program- Direct Loan

Why do we have RESP?

To help rural families and small businesses achieve cost savings through loans that would enable them to implement durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures.

How do we help rural families and small businesses achieve cost savings?



RESP Changes for 2018 – Omnibus Bill

- Notice Period Open through September 2019, or until all funds are exhausted
- Addition of:
 - Replacement of Manufactured Homes (if determined to be more energy efficient)
- Applicants are encouraged to consider projects that provide measurable results in helping rural communities build robust and sustainable economies through strategic investments in **infrastructure, partnerships and innovation.**

RESP Changes for 2018 – Farm Bill

- adds on- or off grid renewable energy to the list of eligible energy efficiency measures;
- adds energy storage systems to the list of eligible energy efficiency measures;
- Directs USDA not to include RESP debt in the calculation of debt-equity ratios for the purpose of determining eligibility to borrow under the Rural Electrification Act;
- Instructs USDA to develop streamlined accounting requirements;
- Increases from 3% to 5% in the maximum permitted interest rate that can be charged by a borrower to a qualified consumer;
- Allows for qualified consumer repayment of RESP loans to RESP borrowers via a recurring service bill;
- Requires the agency to periodically publish RESP award data



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Questions?

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RUS Electric Program GFR Link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/electric-gfr>

USDA State Offices link: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/contact-us/state-offices>

USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities.