How Does REAP Work?
REAP provides grants and loan guarantees to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to help produce clean energy and improve energy efficiency. REAP is a diverse program that has supported projects in every state. Because REAP supports all renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies — such as biofuels, large and small wind systems, farm digesters, solar electric and thermal, and biomass energy — it can serve every agricultural sector.

What Are REAP’s Benefits?
REAP Boosts Profits by cutting energy consumption (and bills) with modern clean energy technologies. In 2011, nearly 1,900 REAP projects helped businesses and farmers with $91 million in total awards.

REAP Creates Jobs in manufacturing, installation, operation and maintenance of renewable energy and efficiency systems. REAP leverages private investment in rural communities, driving further job growth. USDA reports that in 2011, REAP saved or created almost 7,000 jobs at a total investment of $465 million.

REAP Protects the Environment by reducing fossil fuel pollution. In 2011 alone, REAP reduced greenhouse gas pollution by almost 2 million metric tons.

REAP Increases Our Energy Security by providing new, homegrown sources of clean energy. In 2011 alone, REAP saved the equivalent of over 2 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Pictured above: Steve and Diane Hammer at their meat locker and grocery business in Elkton, SD. The small town had been without a grocery store for several years when the Hammers decided to expand their meat locker business. They used a $65,000 REAP grant to install geothermal heat pumps and a wood boiler heating system. These improvements greatly improved the business’ energy efficiency, leading to a 40% reduction in energy costs. Mr. Hammer says the project wouldn’t have been possible without REAP.

South Dakota Snapshot

135 projects awarded under REAP from 2003-2011

$5.3 million in REAP grants from 2003-2011

139 jobs created or saved in 2011 alone

Data from USDA.
REAP can serve every agricultural sector and has helped in every state.

REAP’s Demand Far Outpaces Funds FY2003-2011

REAP’s Technological Diversity, FY2003-2011