



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY CENTER
Protecting the Midwest's Environment and Natural Heritage

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Obama Budget Doubles Planned Funding for Innovative Rural Energy Program

In the detailed budget proposal released today, the Obama Administration more than doubled planned funding for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which provides grants and loan guarantees for farmers and rural small businesses to develop renewable energy and invest in energy efficiency.

“This is great news. We can cut carbon pollution while helping our economy recover with new jobs and income in rural America from clean energy. To grow our energy independence and our safeguard our children’s future, we need more homegrown, clean energy,” said Andy Olsen, Senior Policy Advocate at the Environmental Law and Policy Center. “The REAP program does both, and this commitment to doubling REAP funding shows that rural America has a key role to play in this administration’s plans for economic recovery and climate security.”

Since the program began in **2002**, REAP has funded thousands of projects, from locally owned wind turbines, biogas digesters and solar panels to more efficient pumps, ventilation and cooling systems that cut energy costs. Each year the popular REAP program receives far more applications than it can fund. The 2008 Farm Bill included \$60 million in mandatory funding for REAP. President Obama’s budget proposes an additional \$68.1 million in discretionary funding.

By providing grants that cover up to 25% of the cost of clean energy projects as well as loan guarantees and technical assistance, REAP spurs new investment in rural America, creates jobs, fuels a cleaner, more secure energy future for our nation.

The President’s budget also increased planned investments for the Biorefinery Assistance program which accelerates development of next generation ethanol from non-food sources.

For more information, visit www.farmenergy.org

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The Environmental Law and Policy Center is the Midwest’s leading environmental legal advocacy and eco-business innovation organization www.ELPC.org

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