

## United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Energy for America Program

Through  
NC Clean Energy Technology Center (NCCETC) at North Carolina State University

### *Program Information*

#### **What is an energy efficiency audit?**

An energy efficiency audit from the NCCETC includes an on-site assessment, analysis and a written report which provides information on practical ways your organization can incorporate efficiency improvements at your site. The report includes simple payback of recommended energy improvements, along with financing suggestions. Potential energy improvements and technologies include lighting upgrades, boiler and chiller efficiency upgrades, HVAC improvements, combined heat and power options, repair of compressed air leaks and proper motor optimization.

#### **Who will perform the audit?**

An experienced energy efficiency specialist from the NCCETC at NC State University will conduct your audit. Engineering students may also accompany the specialist to provide support and create an opportunity for hands-on learning.

#### **Subsidized vs. full-price audits?**

In 2016, the NCCETC was awarded funding from the USDA to provide subsidized energy efficiency audits to rural small businesses and agricultural producers in North Carolina. Projects in Virginia and South Carolina will also be considered. The Funding from USDA covers approximately 75 percent of the cost of an audit. There are a limited number of subsidized audits available. Non-profits and government entities are not eligible for subsidized assessments.

#### **Is my organization eligible for a USDA subsidized energy efficiency audit?**

*Rural Small Businesses (both rural and small):* Businesses must be a “small business” [as defined by the Small Business Association](#). Depending on the type of business, “small” is defined by either the number of employees or annual revenue. A small business must make less than \$750,000, according to their average annual receipts, or have fewer than 500 employees in order to meet this definition. Businesses must also be “rural” as defined by the [USDA Property Eligibility](#). (Town/city with pop. of <50,000)

*Agricultural Producer:* Agricultural producers must directly engage in production of agricultural products and at least 50 percent of gross income must be from the agriculture business. Agricultural producers are not required to be in a rural location.

#### **What is my NAICS number and how do I find it?**

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by Federal statistical agencies in classifying business establishments. [FAQ about the NAICS number system](#). To find the NAICS number for your business [click here, and then enter a key word that describes your business in the “2012 NAICS Search” box](#), then select the correct number.

**What is the cost share?**

The cost share for this site assessment is a flat rate of \$711. The USDA Rural Energy for America Program requires that the organization pay for at least 25 percent of the total audit cost, on average valued at \$2,845.

**Is there funding assistance for project implementation?**

Rural Small Businesses and Agricultural Producers can compete for USDA REAP funding (grant or loan guarantee) to support renewable energy systems & energy efficiency installations. The site assessment report may be used as a part of your REAP funding application.

**Steps to the program**

Site assessments will be scheduled upon the completion of this request, receipt of the appropriate cost share fee, and the Pre-Assessment Form. Applicants are required to complete a Pre-Assessment Form at least one week prior to the on-site visit. We request a 12-month history of utilities (cost and consumption). A written report will be completed within four weeks of the site visit.

For more information on energy assessments visit: <https://nccleantech.ncsu.edu/>

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**Contact Information**

Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Site Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ NAICS # \_\_\_\_\_

**Option 1:** Business verified as eligible for subsidized assessment as a rural small business:

Yes (rural and small) \_\_\_\_ No (please help) \_\_\_\_ No (want full- price assessment) \_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_

**Option 2:** Business verified as eligible for subsidized assessment as an agricultural producer:

Yes (rural and small) \_\_\_\_ No (please help) \_\_\_\_ No (want full- price assessment) \_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_

Motivation/Goals/Expectations/Needs for Seeking Energy Efficiency Services \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Desired Start Date \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan to apply for USDA REAP funding to assist you with installation of energy efficiency improvements? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Site Data**

Facility Type (farming, retail, manufacturing, office, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Acres of land \_\_\_\_\_

Building Square Footage (ft<sup>2</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Building (Years) \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of Building \_\_\_\_\_

Operating Schedule and Method of Control \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Product Description

Four horizontal lines for text entry.

Annual Sales \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Employees \_\_\_\_\_  
Annual Production \_\_\_\_\_

Process Description

Example-Generic Box Air Filter Assembly - Paper Pleated and cut -> Molds prepared with wax -> Screens placed onto molds -> Pleated paper added -> Polyurethane mix glued -> Filter body assembled -> Filter heated -> Product cooled -> Packed for shipping

Eight horizontal lines for text entry.

Utility Data

Are you concerned about the impact of current or future energy costs on your business? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you concerned about power reliability? Is there a substantial financial impact to your business if the power goes out for 1 hour? For 5 minutes? History of blackouts \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to on-site or nearby low cost fuel resources (i.e. landfill gas, farm manure, food processing waste, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please check all that apply:

A Building Automation System or Energy Management Control System is in place and used to track utility data regularly.

The building is sub-metered.

The building has automated 15-minute interval or SMART meters.

If there are multiple meters at a site, include the account/meter numbers that pertain to each area.

***Please attach electricity, water, natural gas, and other fuel bill data for a 12 month period.***

Please select what is currently installed at the building:

- |                            |                     |                         |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Energy-efficient lighting  | Micro-hydro         | Low-flow faucets        |
| Lighting controls          | Geothermal          | Rainwater harvesting    |
| Insulation                 | Green/living roof   | Porous pavement         |
| HVAC system upgrades       | External shading    | Segregated recycling    |
| Solar hot water            | Composting          | Co-mingled recycling    |
| Solar PV panels (electric) | Anaerobic digestion | Sustainable procurement |
| Wind turbines              | Low-flush toilets   | Gray-water systems      |

Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

What is your payback threshold for energy efficient capital improvements? \_\_\_\_\_

Please specify where you feel there is room for improvement in energy efficiency \_\_\_\_\_

Might your company be interested in learning about Combined Heat & Power or Renewable Technologies? \_\_\_\_\_

Please check off the information that is being provided to NCCETC:

- Copy of utility bills
- Copies of previous energy audit reports
- Copies of action plans or capital improvement plans
- Copies of an O&M contract (if outsourced)
- Electrical, mechanical and civil engineering drawings

I, (insert name) \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby consent to disclosing my facility information to NC Clean Energy Technology Center – Energy Efficiency Program with NC State University for the purpose of administering the requested service.