

Partner Organizations

Farm Energy Partners Network: The Network, established in 2006, consists of public and private sector organizations who coordinate strategies to help the agricultural community achieve energy efficiencies and pursue on-farm renewable energy technologies. The following Network members are leading the Harvesting Clean Energy Project:

Outreach Partners:

- Four Directions Development Corporation
- Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
- Maine Organic Milk Producers
- Western Mountains Alliance
- Women's Agricultural Network

Technical Assistance Partners:

- Community Energy Partners
- Efficiency Maine
- Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Maine Department of Agriculture
- Threshold to Maine Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Time & Tide Resource Conservation & Development Council
- St. John Aroostook Resource Conservation & Development Council
- University of Maine Cooperative Extension
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Rural Development

Management Team:

- Mary Ann Hayes, Maine Rural Partners
- Sue Jones, Community Energy Partners

Contact Us

Can your farm benefit from energy savings?
If so, contact us today!

To obtain publications, sign up for a workshop, request a farm audit or obtain any other information about Harvesting Clean Energy or the Farm Energy Partners Network, please contact one of the outreach partners listed at the left, call **Serena Bemis-Goodall** at 581-1648 or email us via cleanenergy@mainerural.org



Maine Rural Partners

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WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE USDA
RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FOR PROVIDING THE PRIMARY SUPPORT
FOR THIS PROJECT.



Harvesting Clean Energy



Canola grown in Ft. Kent is studied for biofuel production.

Harvesting Clean Energy is a technical assistance program of Maine Rural Partners and the Farm Energy Partners Network. Together, we help Maine farmers save energy, improve the environment, and strengthen their bottom lines.



Maine Rural Partners
Strengthening our rural community

Harvesting Clean Energy

Why Farmers?

Like their counterparts across the country, Maine farmers are particularly well-positioned to take advantage of energy conservation measures and clean energy technologies. Electricity rates in Maine are among the highest in the country and farm-based incomes are stressed.

Farmers' lands can accommodate these technologies with minimal use of farm acreage, while using existing farm-based resources such as wind, dairy waste, crops and soil. And, several federal grant and loan programs are currently available to farmers for exactly these purposes.

A number of Maine farmers have already implemented innovative energy measures on their farms, including:

Sandy River Farms, Farmington – replaced an inefficient grain bin dryer with a more efficient propane-fired dryer.

Gold Top Farms, Knox – replaced an inefficient cooling system in its dairy barn with more efficient fans.

West Berry Farm, Hammond – installed a farm-sized Skystream wind turbine to supplant their farm's electricity use.

Backyard Farms, Inc., Madison – plans to replace its propane-fired boiler with a biomass-fired boiler, and will potentially add a co-generation turbine that will provide both heat and electricity needs.

Tools and Resources for Farmers

Harvesting Clean Energy will provide all farmers—especially those with limited resources—services to help determine if energy conservation and other energy applications make sense for their farms. The four key services are:

- **Publications:** The most up-to-date information on energy conservation and energy technologies for the farm is available. This includes tools to assess the benefits and risks of energy-related investments and innovative ways to finance them. The publications are available in hard copy or electronic format.
- **Presentations:** A number of workshops will be held across the state to highlight energy conservation and renewable energy technologies available for various farm situations. In addition, project partners are available to make presentations at farm-based events and other community gatherings.
- **On-Farm Audits:** Efficiency Maine energy audits performed by trained energy professionals will identify steps farmers can take right away to decrease their energy use and save money.
- **Farm Tours:** Farmers can showcase existing energy-related projects to their peers, or participate in a tour of Maine farms. There's nothing like seeing it!

Key Opportunities

Four key energy investment areas provide the best opportunities for Maine farmers to reduce energy costs and strengthen the bottom line:

- **Energy Efficiency**
- **Community Wind**
- **Oilseed, Small Grains & Biomass**
- **Thermal Solar Applications**

In addition, there is potential to create new value-added business ventures which complement and support traditional farming land uses and technologies.



Bussie York of Sandy River Farms and Agri-Energy, Inc. beside his new propane-fired grain bin dryer.