

Friday, May 13, 2011

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District highlighted grants and loan guarantee programs through the USDA-Rural Development’s Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) for rural small businesses and agricultural producers.

“During this difficult economic time it is critical that New Mexico small businesses, farmers, and ranchers know about all of the opportunities available to rural America to help them complete clean energy projects that can save them money on their energy bills and make them more economically competitive,” Congressman Luján said.

Deadlines for the following programs were recently announced:

- **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grants and Loan Guarantees** for purchases and installation of renewable energy systems – wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, and others, including “flexible fuel pumps” – and energy efficiency improvements. Applicants can be agricultural producers, small rural businesses, corporations formed under Section 17 or those similarly organized, rural electric and telephone companies, and certain other utilities. **Deadline: June 15, 2011.**

- **Renewable Energy Feasibility Study Grants** for feasibility studies for renewable energy projects. Applicants can be agricultural producers, small rural businesses, corporations formed under Section 17 or those similarly organized, rural electric and telephone companies, and

certain other utilities.
2011.

Deadline: June 30,

- **Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants** to conduct and promote energy audits and to provide renewable energy development assistance for those entities who can be applicants in the two programs listed above. Eligible applicants for this grant are a unit of state, tribal, or local government; a land-grant college or university, or other institution of higher education; a rural electric cooperative; a public power entity; or an instrumentality of a state, tribal, or local government.

Deadline: June 30, 2011.

It is recommended that any potential applicant contact a New Mexico Rural Development office immediately to ensure that the applicant and the contemplated project are eligible, to provide preliminary environmental information so that any environmental review can begin, and to request and complete the appropriate application template.

More information is available at the [Rural Development website](#) or by calling (505) 761-4953 or (505) 761-4952.

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