

U.S. Department of Agriculture - West Virginia Agricultural and Rural Small Business Energy Assessment Program



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The objective is to develop and implement a State-wide energy audit program that delivers cost-effective audits to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs. The project team will promote and conduct energy audits specifically developed for agricultural producers and rural small businesses in West Virginia.

Audit costs: As a participant in this program the client is only expected to pay \$125 for a full energy audit of their facility and will receive a full report of the findings and a list of recommendations that, if implemented, will result in reduced energy costs. This type of audit normally averages around \$3,000 but funding from the USDA covers the majority of the cost.

Eligibility: Agricultural producers and for-profit small business. A for-profit small business is defined as any business that employs less than 500 people in a designated rural area and makes under a certain revenue based upon the type of business. The only areas in West Virginia that are not designated as rural are Charleston, Huntington, and selected areas of the I-64 corridor. If you have questions about your eligibility please contact Zela Wyrosdick.

Anticipated energy savings: Our assessment recommendations can help save from 5 to 10 percent of energy costs in areas of lighting, HVAC and building envelope thermographic analysis per year. The analysis of high energy consuming processes could result in even higher cost saving recommendations.

Audit Types

On-site energy audit

This type of audit focuses on one or more energy systems and will be done completely on site. The audit team will arrive in the morning, examine utility bills, meet with business personnel and request a plant tour, examine energy consuming equipment and processes, collect energy data, and determine energy saving recommendations. This type of audit will typically be a single day assessment including energy analysis and diagnostics.

Off-Site energy audit

This type of audit will require the client to fill in data with respect to specific energy systems and send the information to the audit team electronically. The template that the assessment team has developed for specific energy systems should be completed by the client company. The audit team will examine the submitted data and generate energy saving recommendations based on sound engineering practices, analysis, and discussion with the client by phone or via the internet.

Agricultural Producer Audit

This type of audit will be an on-site audit with preliminary data collection including energy bills and a compilation of the individual building characteristics such as size, description of wall construction and insulation. The agricultural audit assessment template should be completed prior to the audit. The audit will typically consist of a single day visit by the audit team to assess the condition of each building and the energy using equipment.

**If you have any questions or are interested in scheduling an audit with this program please contact:
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