



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Funds NCAT Clean Energy Grant Workshops

BUTTE, September 30, 2010 – USDA Rural Development today announced the awarding of funding made available under the Rural Business Enterprise Grant program (RBEG). The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), headquartered in Butte, Montana, received the \$31,000 grant to fund educational workshops in Montana. The workshops will instruct rural Montana small business owners and producers how to access available funding for clean energy projects through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Clean and renewable energy is a priority for the Obama Administration,” said Matthew Jones, State Director for Rural Development in Montana. “Through our partnership with NCAT, Montanans will be given the tools to access federal loans and grants from the Rural Energy for America Program so they can improve the efficiency and environmental impact of their energy consumption.”

The first two workshops will be held in November in Havre, Montana. The workshop on Tuesday, November 16 will be from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will include comprehensive walkthroughs on accessing USDA funds through the REAP program. Lunch and refreshments will be served, and the cost is \$55. The second workshop on Wednesday, November 17 is an overview workshop held from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. The second workshop will not go into the detail provided in the first, but will be provided at no charge. Both workshops will be held at the Hansler Auditorium on the campus of MSU-Northern in Havre.

People who attend these workshops will gain a better understanding of available loan and grant programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy development. “Tapping Clean Energy Funding for Rural Montana” participants will receive educational materials and sample applications that can be used with REAP and other loan/grant applications. The Havre sessions are the first in a series of Clean Energy Funding workshops and webinars that will be offered around the state over the winter months. For more details on registering for either of these workshops, contact Al Kurki at (406) 449-0104 or e-mail akurki@ncat.org. The deadline for registration is November 10.

Funding is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement, and is not provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Through its Rural Development mission area, USDA administers and manages more than 40 housing, business and community infrastructure and facility programs through a network of 6,100 employees located in the nation’s capital and 500 state and local offices. These programs are designed to improve the economic stability of rural communities, businesses, residents, farmers, and ranchers and improve the quality of life in rural America. Rural Development has an existing portfolio of more than \$142 billion in loans and loan guarantees.

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