

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION FUND
Final Project Report Form

Your final invoice will not be paid until the final report is received and approved.

Instructions:

- *Please refer to Exhibits A & B of your contract.*
- *Exhibit A outlines the tasks that you agreed to complete. **Your report should explain the work done on each task and what was required to meet 100% completion.***
- *Exhibit B refers to your payment schedule. Invoices will not be processed without supporting documentation on hours worked. Payment will only be made on work that relates to the contract.*
- *Please submit the report electronically in a Word format. This will allow us to cut & paste for program summaries. Attachments and supporting documents can be provided in hard copy, but pdf versions, where appropriate, are greatly appreciated.*

1. Program Title (*as displayed in your proposal*)

New Hampshire Farm Energy Initiative

2. Program Type (*as listed in your proposal*)

Energy Audits; Energy efficiency related industrial process and control systems; Education, outreach and information programs that promote energy efficiency, conservation, and demand response; and Demand response programs to reduce NH's peak electric load.

3. Summary of work completed through the **duration of the grant.**

- *Provide a summary of activities relevant to this grant using Exhibit A of your contract as an outline.*
- *For each task, please explain the work performed.*
- *Discuss any benefit your activities may have had for low income residents.*
- *Note any problems or delays.*
- *Note any deviation from the work-plan*

Task 1: Gathering Farm Energy Info: This task was completed with the assistance of the SNHRCD board, non-farm energy organizations, the Maine Rural Partnerships (providing their resources on CD), the Vermont Law School (providing their farm energy book), and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (supplying multiple resources).

Task 2: Draft Farm Energy Materials: The NH Farm Energy Initiative created an initial newsletter/project opener called AgPower as well as a farm energy resource booklet describing each financial/technical program applicable to farmers in NH.

Task 3: Focus Group: SNHRCD Board, farmers, and technical service providers reviewed materials and targeted some resources to certain workshops/ conferences.

Task 4: Receive Feedback: Though completed for the purposes of this grant, SNHRCD is continuing to receive feedback on the project for future revisions/ additions. Feedback was received through workshop evaluations, SurveyMonkey evaluations, one-on-one interviews with farmers, and feedback from presenters.

Task 5: Coordination of Two "Train the Trainer" Workshops: The Two "Train the Trainer" workshops were held to help educate agricultural technical service providers on farm energy issues. The first "Train

the Trainer” was the farm energy conference that included over 100 attendees, over 15 presenters, and brought both the energy and farm community together. The second “Train the Trainer” workshop hosted Dick Peterson of the Northeast Agricultural Technical Center to focus on dairy farming energy issues; this workshop had approximately 35 attendees and was held in Littleton, NH. Supplant to this was the EnSave training that trained three energy data collectors to work on NH farms. Though the initial focus of these workshops were the ag service providers, members of the energy industry and farmer also attended these workshops.

Task 6: Farmer Education Workshops: SNHRCD hosted farmer education workshops throughout NH and informed attendees about an array of farm energy issues and opportunities. These workshops included the following:

- NH Farm & Forest: SNHRCD hosted two workshops in 2010 and one in 2011, reaching 60 farmers. SNHRCD also had a booth at Farm & Forest in 2010, reaching approximately 700 people.

- Northeast Organic Farming Association of NH- SNHRCD hosted one workshop in 2010, reaching 35 organic farmers, and hosted a booth, reaching an additional 200 people.

- Additional workshops were held at least once in each county.

- Following the feedback of previous workshops, SNHRCD hosted two renewable energy farm tours in October; one in Canterbury, NH, and one in Amesbury, MA.

Task 7: Energy Audits: Completed. This provided the biggest challenge to SNHRCD as described in section 6.

Task 8: Final Evaluation: Completed for the purposes of this grant, but SNHRCD will continue evaluating the program, talking to the partners made throughout the project, and evaluating their next steps.

Task 9: Create publication for public/ final report: Completed though more publications have been suggested to display farm energy successes as farms implement their recommendations.

4. Summarize the overall project completed.

This project was composed of training agricultural technical service providers and the local energy industry about farm energy issues and opportunities, informing NH farmers about energy issues and opportunities, and providing 25 farm energy audits by energy auditors with agricultural expertise. During this project, over 200 people attended energy workshops held throughout the state, three energy data collectors were trained, a technical service provider for the USDA Agricultural Energy Management Plan was certified, and 25 farm energy audits were completed.

5. Please document any jobs created.

One of the first accomplishments of this grant was to have three in-state energy experts trained to collect energy data on farms. Three data collectors were trained and are contracted by EnSave Inc. when an audit is being conducted. Also, Matt Siska of GDS Associates used two of the NH Farm Energy Initiative’s audits as his examples in order to become NH’s first in-state USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Service Provider; farmers can only choose approved TSPs as part of their Environmental Quality Incentive Program conservation planning activities. Grant funds helped support Project Administrator Ann Bowes of the Southern NH Resource Conservation & Development Area Council. Southern NH RC&D contracted with Merrimack County Conservation District to manage the program. Grant funds went to support District Manager Stacy Luke, project assistant Rebecca Dole, project assistant and writer Sherry Young, and interns Devin Whitcomb and Alyssa Lemmermann. Indirectly, jobs were created by the farms who have implemented some of the recommendations through the hiring of contractors and purchase of energy efficiency equipment.

6. Explain any obstacles encountered or any milestones not reached.

All milestones were eventually reached. The biggest obstacle was delays in getting the energy audits completed. The original company contracted to complete the audits turned down several audits that they felt would not benefit from a farm energy audit and the ones they did accept took a considerable time to get done. Some of the farms were disappointed in the communication process with this company and one was unhappy with the audit he received. At this point, SNHRCD utilized a second company that would do some of the audits the first company declined as well as take on additional audits that the other firm had not started on. The audits from the second company were considerably more expensive, but the quality of the audits was outstanding. Getting audits in a timely manner was the biggest obstacle in this project.

7. If applicable, in a section labeled *Beyond the Contract* (or some other well defined title), please report other activities, partnerships, funding or other synergies that have occurred as a result of this funding.

The success of the first steps of the NH Farm Energy Initiative was built on the volunteerism of the SNHRCD board, presenters, and partners. Volunteer Board members, farmers, and ag service providers reviewed materials to be used in the workshops. Most presenters volunteered their time to prepare and execute their presentations at to workshops. Board members volunteered in the logistical aspects of the workshops. Partners have added to the results of the project by conducting their own farm energy workshops. Partners such as the Cheshire County Conservation District are working directly with farmers in their area with additional workshops and technical assistance through a Specialty Crop Grant. Also, as a result of this funding, some farms that did not apply for an audit through this grant have applied for audits through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services Agricultural Energy Management Plan.

8. If applicable, please include brochures, pictures, announcements, or other materials developed to promote your grant activities. Attachments (and other documentation) are appreciated.

Previously sent and also currently being uploaded on UNH web tool. A CD of pictures will also be sent.

9. Budget vs. Actual Expenditures: *Using the budget you submitted for the final approved grant proposal, please add a column and provide actual expenditures as well as match dollars to show how funding was spent.*

Please see final invoice for budget versus actual expenditures.

10. Based on you're the results of your project, what additional steps are you now taking that you would have not otherwise taken had you not received the grant? Please be specific and provide details.

SNHRCD has been actively seeking other grant funds to create demonstration sites and "holistic" farm energy audits that better include the farmstead. SNHRCD will also seek funds to do wind energy assessments and other renewable energy feasibility studies. SNHRCD has worked with partner USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in highlighting their Energy Conservation Activity Plans, which they recently unveiled.

11. If you plan any press activities to announce your project, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to attend.

SNHRCD & partners will if any press activities are planned.