

EESI Can Help Your Constituents Apply

EESI can assist in the facilitation of the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) process for individual utility Co-ops. The process is as follows:



STEP ONE

Submit a Letter Of Intent (LOI) that provides basic utility information and explains how the funds would be used by RUS.



STEP TWO

RUS reviews the LOIs on a first-come, first-serve basis.



STEP THREE

RUS then invites selected applicants to proceed with a full application.



STEP FOUR

Full application submitted with guided assistance available from EESI and past RESP recipients.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently announced an additional \$100 million in funding available nationally for the Rural Energy Savings Program. I hope cooperatives and other utilities across the country will look to the model here in South Carolina for *lowering energy costs for consumers, reducing electricity consumption to help the environment, and creating jobs in rural communities.*”

REP. JIM CLYBURN (D-SC) *October 2018*



ACCESS CLEAN ENERGY SAVINGS

Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) Assistance

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION PROCESS

SEPTEMBER 2019

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The Need: Why Now?

On August 6, 2018 RUS opened a one-year application window for approximately \$100M in loan capital through RESP. The application process needs to be initiated before September 2019 in order for you to take advantage of this funding.

The Opportunity: Cost-Effective Energy

Administered by the USDA's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), RESP is open for applications with approximately \$100M in loan capital. RESP provides rural electric cooperatives and other rural utilities with zero interest loans to launch or expand energy efficiency financing programs for their members.

These loans give co-op members, via their cooperatives, the opportunity to implement energy efficiency measures or switch to renewable energy systems while also saving money on their monthly electric bills.

The program will strengthen local economies, businesses, and communities by offering:

Cost Savings + Financial Empowerment

Upgraded systems are expensive on the whole, but through RESP there's an opportunity to keep investment and implementation costs low for the utility and operations managers, while providing greatly needed cost savings to its members.

Rural Inclusivity

The program was launched in 2016 with the stated goal to "help rural families and small business achieve (energy) cost savings by providing loans to qualified consumers to implement durable cost-effective energy measures."

Flexible Installation Applications

RESP loans can be used for a variety of eligible measures, including lighting, building envelope upgrades, HVAC systems, water heaters and other property-attached appliances, water and waste efficiency improvements, permanently installed energy storage devices, on- and off-grid renewable energy systems and electric charging stations.

Participants: Rural Electric Co-ops






The reduced monthly electric bill and the cost of the system financing is less or the same than what an individual member is paying monthly for their existing inefficient system.

The program process is as follows:

- 1 Co-op works with EESI representatives to apply for and receive USDA's **zero interest RESP loan**
- 2 Co-op works with members to **provide low-cost loans** for individual projects
- 3 Replacement or new systems are **installed**
- 4 **Cost of installation is paid** through the member's utility bill over time
- 5 **Zero-interest on loans** for Co-op utilities and **monthly savings** for members

Using Your Loan

Loans can be used for a variety of measures, providing the utility can justify the cost-effectiveness of the measures for the end-user. Eligible changes include:

 Lighting	 Permanently-installed energy storage devices
 Building envelope upgrades	 On- and off-grid renewable energy systems
 Water & waste efficiency	