



Energy Programs at USDA

Tim O'Connell

**Assistant to the State Director/
Rural Energy Coordinator**

USDA/Rural Development

Committed to the future of rural communities.



Rural Development

Over 40 grant, direct loan, and guaranteed loan programs to finance housing, businesses, and infrastructure in rural areas.

Program Areas:

- **Rural Housing Programs**
- **Rural Utility Programs**
- **Rural Business and Cooperative Programs**

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Committed to the future of rural communities.



“Old” Energy Programs

- **Section 9006: Provide guaranteed loans and/or grants to farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems and/or energy efficiency projects.**
- **Section 9008: Biomass Research and Development—partnership between USDA and DOE**

Committed to the future of rural communities.



“New” Energy Programs

- **Section 9003: Biorefinery Assistance**
- **Section 9004: Repowering Assistance**
- **Section 9005: Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels**
- **Section 9007: Rural Energy for America Program (REAP): Replaces Section 9006**
- **Section 9008: Biomass Research and Development**
- **Section 9009: Rural Energy Self-Sufficiency**
- **Section 9011: Biomass Crop Assistance Program**

Committed to the future of rural communities.



Section 9007

Rural Energy for America

- **Enhancements from previous program:**
 - **More technologies available (now includes small hydro and wave energy)**
 - **Increases loan guarantees from \$10M to \$25M**
 - **Establishes an energy audit grant program**
 - **Allows grants for feasibility studies**
 - **Increases combined guaranteed loan/grant combination from 50% to 75% of project costs (subject to statutory \$ limits)**

Committed to the future of rural communities.



Section 9008:

Biomass Research and Development

- **Continuation of previous Section 9008:**
 - **Reduces research topic areas from 4 to 3**
 - **Feedstocks,**
 - **Biofuels and Biobased Products Development,**
 - **Biofuels Development Analysis**

Committed to the future of rural communities.



Section 9003 Biorefinery Assistance

- **Grants covering up to 30% of the cost of developing and building demonstration-scale biorefineries for producing "advanced biofuels," which essentially includes all fuels that are not produced from corn kernel starch.**
- **Loan guarantees of up to \$250 million for building commercial-scale biorefineries to produce advanced biofuels.**

Committed to the future of rural communities.



Summary

- **An opportunity to provide comments and suggestions on how [USDA] is to implement Sections 9003, 9004, 9005, 9007, 9009, 9011, 9012, and 9013.**
- **Federal grant funding is available—NOFA's coming out in the next couple of months.**
- **However, to get funding, one must submit an application.**

Committed to the future of rural communities.



Contact Information

Timothy W. O'Connell

**Assistant to the State Director/Rural
Energy Coordinator**

USDA/Rural Development

154 Waianuenue Ave., Room 303

Hilo, HI 96720

(808) 933-8313

(808) 933-8326 (F)

tim.oconnell@hi.usda.gov

Committed to the future of rural communities.