



New Farm Bill Headed to Conference Committee

With the Energy Bill being signed this week void of a national Renewable Energy Standard, many Americans are wondering how other policies can help support renewable energy development in rural America. One answer is the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP, previously called Section 9006 of the Farm Bill), which provides grants and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers and rural, small businesses for renewable energy development and energy efficiency improvements. Among the renewable energy provisions found in the Senate version of the farm bill is \$260 million over five years for the Rural Energy for America Program. The 2002 Farm Bill, and REAP within it, is set to expire this year, but the House-Senate conference committee working on the bill hopes to extend the bill through March 15th, 2008 in order to provide continuous funding for the programs covered in the 2002 bill until agreements can be reached and passed. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Community Wind Resources

Check out these new resources for community wind projects:

- The [Community Wind Toolbox](#) offers high-quality practical information, interactive tools, and links to related information for farmers and rural landowners looking to develop commercial-scale wind projects.
- [Farmers' Guide to Wind Energy: Legal Issues in Farming the Wind](#) from Farmer's Legal Action Group helps guide you through the many legal issues that face community wind projects.
- The Nov./Dec. 2007 issue of [Rural Cooperatives Magazine](#) features community wind from a coop perspective.

New Faces at Windustry

Melissa Peterson joined Windustry in October as our Program Associate. Melissa is currently spearheading the planning for Windustry's [Community Wind Energy 2008](#) conference, as well as focusing on regional policy issues as they relate to community wind development. She recently earned an M.S. in Conservation Biology and Environmental Policy from the University of Albany and the Rockefeller School of Public Policy in New York with a focus on avian ecology. [Click here to find contact information for Melissa.](#)

The other new face at Windustry is Rebecca Pilcher-Cleland, our new Program Analyst. Rebecca began in mid-November and focuses on tracking policy and providing technical outreach to rural communities in the region. Rebecca comes to us from Portland, OR where she worked in renewable energy certificates (RECs) and carbon offsets, working with rural communities, cities, utilities, and small and large corporations on renewable energy and climate change issues. [Click here for Rebecca's contact information.](#)

Windustry is a non-profit organization working to increase wind energy opportunities for rural landowners and communities. We promote wind energy through outreach, educational materials, and technical assistance to rural landowners, local communities and utilities, and state, regional, and nonprofit collaborations.

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