AGRICULTURE ENERGY SYSTEMS PILOT PROGRAM

Agriculture Energy Research Sub-Program

Program Guidelines

2026-2027

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The ***Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program*** (AgEnergy) supports the adoption of clean technologies and implementation of on-farm projects that improve energy efficiency, generate renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase farm resilience to energy costs. ***Agriculture Energy Research Sub-Program*** is designed to support energy related research that will benefit the PEI agriculture industry.

ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

- Bona fide agricultural producers;
- Mi'kmaq First Nations and other Indigenous groups conducting farming activities;
- Agriculture industry organizations, clubs, and associations;
- Municipal and provincial governments; and
- Others may be considered at the discretion of the program review committee.

FUNDING

Funding will be cost shared between eligible recipients and the Department. The level of support and total contribution will be determined by the Agriculture Energy Research Subprogram Committee based on the merit and impact of the project.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Agriculture Energy Research projects will be assessed based on first come first serve for merit and impact. Project objectives and benefit to agriculture industry will be taken into consideration. Projects that have implementation opportunities or projects that address information gaps in agriculture energy will be prioritized for approval.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

AGRICULTURE ENERGY RESEARCH

Conduct agriculture applied research that will directly benefit the PEI agriculture industry. Research funded under this stream will provide meaningful information to understand energy related data, technological advancements, and address information gaps in how PEI's agriculture sector generates and uses energy.

- Research focused on agriculture energy efficiency technologies and on-farm energy efficiency upgrades.
- Research that examines interaction between agriculture energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Feasibility studies on innovative and leading-edge projects including but not limited to bioenergy or renewable energy that has impact on wider agriculture sector.
- Adapting existing technologies to PEI's agriculture industry in a novel way to increase energy efficiency.
- Research, analysis and/or technical studies that address agriculture sector-wide energy challenges or opportunities and provide evidence to inform industry, regulatory or policy decision making.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Contracted labour, consultants, and professional fees for project research;
- Salaries for project activities;

- Materials, supplies;
- Project-related travel;
- Administration costs to a maximum of 10% of project value;
- Other activities and expenses as approved by the Agriculture Energy Program Review Committee

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND EXPENSES

- In-kind contributions (including wages and labour);
- Non-arm's length transactions;
- Activities that do not provide a direct benefit to the agriculture sector.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. To apply to the Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program-Agriculture Energy Research Subprogram: complete, sign, and submit the application and supporting documents. Supporting documents include quotes (where applicable) and a project proposal that includes project objectives, project activities and timelines, expected results, budget, evaluation.

   Email: agenergy@gov.pe.ca

   Mail: PEI Department of Agriculture
   Agriculture Energy Systems Pilot Program
   11 Kent Street
   PO Box 2000
   Charlottetown, PE
   C1A 7N8

2. Department staff will review your application for completeness and follow up if any additional project information is needed to inform project assessment.

Eligible project expenses will be recognized within the project activity period. Expenses incurred prior to date of application will be **ineligible** for program support.

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

The program review committee will assess the project applications based on the information and supporting documentation provided. Agriculture Energy Research projects will be assessed based on first come first serve and for merit and impact.

If approved, applicants will receive an Approval Letter, Funding Agreement, and Claim Form. The Funding Agreement will identify the eligible project activities, financial assistance offered, and the terms and conditions for funding.

Those applicants that receive an Approval Letter, Funding Agreement, and Claim Form are required to review, sign, and return the Funding Agreement to the Department of Agriculture **within 30 days of the date of the letter** or the funding offer may expire.

CLAIMING PROCESS

Project claim deadline is Feb 15th, 2027. Projects should be claimed as soon as they are completed. Applicants shall maintain an accurate record of expenditures incurred and shall submit (at claiming) the following:

- a claim form detailing expenditures and project activities;
- copies of all paid invoices with verification of payment;
- project evaluation reporting on the project and its results;
- photos of projects funded (when applicable);
- any additional documentation required and listed in the Funding Agreement.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Recipients must meet the eligibility criteria and submit a complete application to the Department of Agriculture;
- Applications will be assessed on a first come-first serve basis for merit and impact;
- Incomplete applications may be rejected;
- Approved projects must be completed within the timeframe outlined in the Funding Agreement;
- If the project is not approved, all incurred costs are the responsibility of the applicant;
- Assistance will be available until funds are totally allocated within that year;
- Projects may be funded below the maximum contribution rate upon assessment and availability of funding;
- To validate Bona fide Farmer status, proof of farming income may be requested: Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) filings showing Gross Farming Income for either of the last two tax years. Please note: the CRA Income Tax must match the CRA number given on the application form.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information or to apply, please contact Ankita Shrestha, Agriculture Energy Systems Specialist:

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Email: agenergy@gov.pe.ca

Regular mail: PEI Department of Agriculture
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