



Democrats Invest in Clean Energy and Create Rural Jobs Through the Inflation Reduction Act

Democrats have made the largest investment in rural electric since the New Deal.

The USDA's Rural Utilities Service is creating two new initiatives to invest \$11 billion in rural electric cooperatives that expand clean, affordable, and reliable energy in rural communities.

Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE):

PACE makes \$1 billion available in partially forgivable loans to renewable energy developers and electric service providers, including municipal, cooperative, and investor-owned and Tribal utilities to help finance large-scale solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, and hydropower projects in addition to energy storage projects.

Empowering Rural America (New ERA):

The New ERA program has \$9.7 billion in budget authority to assist rural electric cooperatives in achieving the greatest reduction in greenhouse gas emissions while advancing the long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric systems.

Creating good-paying jobs: These programs alone will create more than 90,000 good-paying jobs.

Reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions: Co-ops rely more on fossil fuels than other power providers. In 2020, co-ops sourced 28% of their electricity from coal, compared to the 19% national average.

Lowering energy costs for rural families: Families served by cooperatives in some states are saddled with power bills that exceed 10% of their income! This program will help rural electric cooperatives restructure or absolve this costly debt to bring down costs for ratepayers.

Growing rural economies: Co-ops under these programs are required to have a community benefit plan to ensure smart land use practices and encourage investment in local entities to retain community wealth.

Democrats are also making investments to bring clean energy to more than 41,500 farmers and rural small businesses through the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

The USDA is currently accepting applications for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

REAP is designed to assist farmers and rural small businesses in saving on energy costs and is a critical driver to bring the clean energy economy to rural America.

REAP provides guaranteed loans and grants to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements.

Increasing access to renewable energy: Farmers and rural small business owners can receive grants for up to 50% of total eligible project costs or combined grant and loan guarantee funding up to 75% of total project costs. This includes solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, and energy efficiency upgrades.

Rural electrical cooperatives:

- Power 56% of the nation's landmass
- Serve 42 million Americans, including 92% of persistent poverty counties
- Power over 21.5 million businesses, homes, schools, and farms in 47 states.