



Your regionally, nationally and internationally recognized energy experts

### Our Mission

To advance environmental and economic well-being by providing unmatched energy services, products, education and information based on world-class research.

### About Us

Our staff of over 100 people (energy engineers, energy specialists, technical experts, software developers, energy research librarians, and more) work out of our Olympia, Spokane and satellite offices. Operating similar to a consulting firm, the WSU Energy Program is a self-supported department within the University.

### Within WSU

We are part of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences. We report directly to the WSU Vice President of Agriculture and Extension.

### Contact

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# Washington State Farm Energy Program

## Identifying savings opportunities for Washington's agricultural industry

**Savings:** Dairies that follow energy-saving recommendations can save approximately a quarter of their energy costs

**Software:** Unique, customized tool maximizes the return on investment for energy-saving improvements

**Leverage:** Millions of federal dollars can help farm businesses pay for energy-saving technologies

### The Washington State Farm Energy Program

supports our state's farm businesses by helping reduce their operating costs, fuel use and carbon footprint. The program also energizes the region's move toward conservation/efficiency as an electric power resource.

**During the Farm Energy pilot, 30 energy assessments were completed for dairies in Thurston and Yakima counties.**

These assessments:

- Thoroughly analyze all systems and equipment at each dairy

- Provide energy-saving recommendations for maintenance changes and equipment investments
- Include estimated costs, potential savings and greenhouse gas reductions for recommended improvements
- Qualify the farm business to apply for federal funds to help pay for energy efficiency improvements

### Savings

Dairies can save approximately a quarter of their energy costs when



they make the energy efficiency improvements identified in the assessments.

## Software

The **Washington State University (WSU) Energy Program** developed and is continually refining an energy use assessment tool to identify and analyze energy-saving opportunities. This software – **CAFÉ Dairy** – continues to evolve as WSU Energy Program engineers build on experience from the pilot program.

## Leverage

The Farm Energy Program leverages federal dollars to help pay for assessments and energy-saving measures. FY13 federal funding to Washington was **\$6.3 million** – **the largest amount awarded to any state** during this round. This annual allocation of funds

### **A Farm Energy Assessment can help farmers get federal dollars and additional funding**

A farm energy assessment is the necessary first step in accessing federal dollars to help pay for energy-saving improvements.

The WSU Energy Program and other stakeholders can help match the farmer to funding sources – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Rural Development and utilities – to help cover the costs of implementing one or more of the energy-saving improvements recommended in the Farm Energy Assessment.

The farmer decides which recommendations to implement.

will be used to pay for facility and landscape assessments and improvement measures.

## Looking Ahead

Washington's farmers would benefit from continued support of the Farm Energy Program. If the next full phase of the program gets underway, the WSU Energy Program plans to:

- **Perform agricultural energy assessments across the state.** These new assessments will pre-qualify farmers who want to apply for funding to help pay for recommended energy-saving measures.
- **Continue to grow the team of professionals who can perform assessments** using the technical platform created by the WSU Energy Program.
- **Provide training and demonstrations** to farmers and local agency staff on energy-saving practices and technologies. WSU Energy Program engineers are experts in identifying new energy-saving technologies that work well on farms.
- **Continue to refine the assessment tool** so it incorporates insights learned in the field.
- **Work with stakeholders and funding organizations to help farmers get maximum funding** to assist them in implementing energy-saving measures.

## Program Partners

The Washington Farm Energy Program is supported by energy and agricultural experts from federal and state agencies,

Washington State University, state agricultural associations and participating utilities.

The Washington Farm Energy Program Development Team includes:

- The Washington State office of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Washington State office of USDA Rural Development
- Washington State Conservation Commission
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Dairy Federation
- WSU Energy Program
- WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources

### **The Executive Director of the Washington State Dairy Federation participates in a Farm Energy Assessment**

Jay Gordon, Executive Director of the Washington State Dairy Federation, knows better than most what is involved with a farm energy assessment.

He recently had the WSU Energy Program perform an assessment of his dairy in Elma, Washington, and graciously allowed the WSU Energy Program team to train additional WSU staff during his assessment.

*The WSU Energy Program appreciates Jay's support.*