

Save Money by Saving Energy

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 nearly 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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New Opportunities for Dairy Farmers in Whatcom and Skagit Counties

The Farm Energy Efficiency Audit Program is now accepting applications, but we can serve only the first 24 applicants that formally sign up.

Who can apply?

Any dairy farmer in Whatcom and Skagit counties may apply for a Farm Energy Efficiency Audit.

What can I expect during – and after – my energy efficiency audit?

Once you sign up for an audit, an engineer will come to your dairy to conduct a site visit and gather details about how energy is used in your operation. These site visits usually take one day, and the engineer will call you before and after the visit to obtain additional information.

After the audit and analysis are complete, a WSU Farm Energy Program engineer will provide you with:

- Specific recommendations for reducing the amount of energy used at your dairy.
- Information you will need to participate in the USDA Rural Development Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services Environmental Quality Incentive Program (NRCS EQIP). While certain restrictions



apply, funds available through these programs can be used to help pay for equipment and other upgrades that can save energy and money.

- Background information you will need to participate in possible utility-funded energy efficiency programs.

What will I learn?

- How much energy is used by your farm operation.
- What no-cost and low-cost changes you can make to reduce your farm's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Strategic investments in equipment you can make that will reduce your short- and long-term energy costs and operating expenses.
- How long it will take to recoup the costs of replacing or upgrading your equipment, based on the WSU Farm Energy Program's recommendations. Many changes pay for themselves in one or two years.
- How to use this information to apply for funding to help pay for some energy-efficiency upgrades.

What else do I need to know?

- Each participating farm must contribute \$1,000, which is 25 percent of the cost of the audit. Matching funds for the remaining costs are covered by the funding sponsors: the Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA). NWCAA awarded a portion of its greenhouse gas mitigation fund, voluntarily provided by BP Cherry Point Refinery. USDA funding was provided for in the Rural Energy for America Program of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- Participants cannot use NRCS EQIP funds to pay for the audit.
- Participants are not eligible for an energy efficiency audit under this program if they currently have a contract with NRCS to have an energy audit performed.

I'm interested in applying – what do I do now?

Please contact:

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Program funding provided by:



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In cooperation with:

Skagit Conservation District
Whatcom Conservation District
Puget Sound Energy

This farm energy audit project is part of a comprehensive Washington Farm Energy Program being developed for Washington's agricultural producers to help them reduce on-farm electricity use, fuel use and other farm energy costs.

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