USDA Rural Development Mission

“Engaging the entrepreneurial spirit of rural America in the development of renewable energy.”
2002 State of the Union Address
“Good jobs also depend on reliable and affordable energy. This Congress must act to encourage conservation, promote technology, build infrastructure, and it must act to increase energy production at home so America is less dependent on foreign oil.”

- President George W. Bush

2012 State of the Union Address
“Nowhere is the promise of innovation greater than in American-made energy...Because of federal investments, renewable energy use has nearly doubled. And thousands of Americans have jobs because of it. I will not walk away from the promise of clean energy.”

- President Barack Obama
USDA Rural Development's
Rural Energy for America Program
REAP - Section 9007

- Began as “Section 9006”
- Created: 2002 Farm Bill
- Expanded: 2008 Farm Bill
- Up for reauthorization: 2012
- Included in Senate Version of Farm Bill

- Grants = up to 25%
- Guaranteed Loans = up to 50%
- Energy audit component
- Tech assistance component
Rural Utilities Service

- RUS is the principal lender for Rural Electric Cooperatives nationwide: typical budget $6 Billion

- Provides Treasury rate loans for transmission, electric generation, broadband, and Smart Grid

- Under Pres. Obama’s Climate Action Plan, announced emphasis on renewable energy projects, April 2013

- December 2013, announced $250 MM Energy Efficiency lending program for RECs and their customers
AGRICULTURE: Food, Fiber and Fuel

USDA Farm-to-Fly Project
- MOU among USDA, USDOE, USN, USAF and Commercial Air Carriers
- Goal: to facilitate a viable supply chain and industry infrastructure for aviation biofuels

USDA BioMass Crop Assistance Program
- Provide subsidies for growers and end users of new energy crops
- BCAP project in Ashtabula County and NW Pennsylvania has established 5K acres of Miscanthus