



CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE GRANT



CONNECTICUT RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT AREA, INC.
IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2023

ENERGY PROJECTS

On-Farm Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

SOIL HEALTH

Equipment & Practices

[CTRCD.ORG/CLIMATE-SMART-AGRICULTURE](https://ctrcd.org/climate-smart-agriculture)



Connecticut
Resource Conservation
& Development Area



Funding for this project was paid for by the Climate Smart Farming: Agriculture and Forestry Grant. Funding awarded and administered by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

AGENDA

- CT RC&D Staff Introductions
- Goal of this Webinar
- **Brief Overview** of Grant Guidance
- Application Demonstration
- Questions



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GRANT ROUNDS

FIRST

OPEN: Friday, August 25, 2023

DEADLINE : EOD Tuesday, October 31, 2023

SECOND

Spring 2024 (Dates TBD)



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FUNDING TIERS

	TIER ONE	TIER TWO
ELIGIBILITY	New/beginning (1-3 years) AND Established (3+ years) Farms	Established (3+ years) Farms
AWARD AMOUNT	\$5,000 to \$25,000	\$25,001 to \$50,000
MATCH REQUIREMENT (CASH OR IN KIND)	25% Soil Health 50% Energy*	
PROJECT DURATION	1 year from time of award to implementation or installation AND 1 year of monitoring afterward	

*Applicants encouraged to seek matching funds support through state and federal funding opportunities; please see Grant Guidance for examples. Underserved farms, as defined by DoAG for the purpose of this grant, who are unable to secure all matching funds, may submit a request for accommodation as a supporting document to this application.



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CASH OR IN-KIND MATCH

- **Cash match** can be self-financed, bank-financed, or provided through another grant (federal, state, or otherwise). If a grant is providing the match, the applicant must disclose the grantor, the grant name, and amount awarded.
- **In-Kind match** examples include (but are not limited to) if they directly relate to the proposed project:
 - Owner wages and/or time
 - Employee wages and fringe benefits
 - Hired contractors and consultants' time
 - Stipends for students and/or intern work
 - Volunteer time



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ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- **Agricultural producers**, singularly or jointly, whether such producers are owners or tenants of existing agribusiness within the State of Connecticut
- **Agricultural cooperatives**
- **All agricultural entities**, including aquaculture, agriculture, and forestry
- **All production types**, including conventional/organic, indoor/outdoor, soil/water, urban/rural, etc.
- **New/beginning farms** (operations **officially** in business/production 1-3 years)
- **Established farms** (operations in production 3+ years)
- Priority will be given to projects which support **historically underserved farmers*** including BIPOC producers, veterans, new and beginning farmers, anyone in a protected class, anyone who speaks English as a second language.

*as defined by the CT Department of Agriculture for the Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry grant funding



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ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS

- Farm business in Connecticut
- Owned property
- Leased property (Landlord Consent Agreement)



LANDLORD CONSENT AGREEMENT



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CT RC&D Climate Smart Agriculture Grant

Landlord Consent Agreement

Applicants must print this document and have the landlord sign in ink—no electronic signatures will be accepted. Once completed, the document must be scanned and attached to the grant application prior to submitting.

Questions may be directed to Sarah Layton, Agricultural Programs Coordinator, at slayton@ctrctd.org or call 860-345-3977 ext. 102.

Farm Applicant Name

CT RC&D Climate Smart Agriculture Grant Project Title

Location of Project

Landlord/Company Name

Landlord/Company Address

Landlord/Company Phone

Landlord/Company Email Address

TO: CT Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (CT RC&D)

I, _____ consent to the proposed project referenced above. At the conclusion of the lease, the title of any equipment purchased with CT RC&D awarded grant funds will remain in ownership and possession of the tenant, _____, as long as they are not in default of any rent payment.

Printed Landlord Name

Landlord Signature

Date

AWARD AMOUNTS & PURPOSES

- Awards will not exceed **\$25,000 for Tier 1** and **\$50,000 for Tier 2** per farm applicant.
- Funds must be used to implement, support, or expand climate smart agricultural practices related to:
 - **On-farm energy (energy efficiency and renewable energy)**
 - **Soil health equipment and practices**
- **New projects or practices** (not projects already installed or practices in place)
- Use of funds must be toward an approved purpose and related to the proposed project.



DECIDING ON A PROJECT

- Ask yourself:
 - Does my proposed project fit into the categories of **on-farm energy** (energy efficiency and renewable energy) and/or **soil health** equipment and practices?
 - What specific metrics will I need to use to measure the **impacts/outcomes** of installing/implementing this project/practice?



ON-FARM ENERGY

PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Increasing on-farm energy efficiency
- Upgrading to energy-efficient lighting
- Installing solar panels to offset electricity usage
- Purchasing solar-powered equipment (ex. solar tractor)
- Installing solar-powered ventilation for high tunnels
- Implementing renewable energy projects (ex: geothermal, heat pumps)
- Replacing dated coolers/freezers with energy-efficient equipment



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SOIL HEALTH EQUIPMENT & PRACTICES

PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Planting of cover crops
- Conservation crop rotation
- Conservation tillage (no-till/low-till)
- Mulching
- Composting
- Nutrient management
- Improved grazing & pasture
- Land management
- Purchasing equipment to directly improve soil health
- Additional examples: NRCS Climate-Smart Mitigation Activities



USES OF FUNDING

- **Equipment purchases and rentals** to support implementation of climate-smart farming practices as outlined in your application
- **Materials and supplies** specifically related to the project
- **Employee* wages and fringe benefits** related to the implementation and execution of the proposed project
 - ***Owner wages** and/or time may be included as an in-kind match but will not be compensated directly by this grant
- **Hired contractors and consultants' time** related to the proposed project
- **Stipends for student and/or intern work** related to the proposed project
- **State/local/federal permits** related to the proposed project

*See Grant Guidance for Ineligible Uses of Funding



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GRANT PAYMENT

- **Sign contract** governing terms of award
- **Initial 50% of award payment** awarded after contract signed
- **Remaining 50% of award payment** awarded after:
 - Project is fully implemented/installed
 - Favorable review of second semi-annual report
 - CT RC&D/CT DoAG site visit



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PROJECT DURATION & CONTRACT

Upon the first 50% grant award payment, recipients are allotted:

- **One year to implement/install** the project, followed by
- **One year of required monitoring/reporting** to CT RC&D
- Contract & project extensions not allowed

Grant awardees responsible for:*

- Signing a **contract** with RC&D
- Providing **certificate of insurance** holding CT RC&D harmless
- **Implementing/installing** the project within one year
- Submitting **3 semi-annual reports** assessing status & itemizing expenses
- Allowing **site inspections** from CT RC&D/CT DoAG
- Submitting **final report** measuring project outcomes/impact
- Other requirements as outlined in CT RC&D contract

*See Grant Guidance for more detailed information



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TIMELINE

Implementation Phase

Action	Deadline
Contract Signing	Fall/Winter 2023
Initial Disbursement (50%) of Funds	Fall/Winter 2023
First Semi-Annual Report Due	Spring 2024
Project Installation/Implementation	Fall 2024
Second Semi-Annual Report Due	Fall 2024
Site Visit conducted by CT RC&D and CT DoAG	Fall/Winter 2024
Following completion of project, request for Final Disbursement (50%) of Funds	Fall 2024

Monitoring Phase

Action	Deadline
Third Semi-Annual Report Due	Spring 2025
Possible Site Visit conducted by CT RC&D and CT DoAG	Fall/Winter 2025
Final Report	Fall 2025

Please note: these tables provide a general timeframe. Specific dates will be outlined in awarded contracts.



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REPORTING

Semi-annual and final reports will include:*

- **Budget** information and **expenditures**
- **Deviations** from project & timeline
- **Challenges** encountered & **solutions** developed to overcome them
- **Major planned activities** for upcoming periods
- Staff **timesheets** & subcontractor **invoices**
- Additional reporting metrics specified in contract

After the project has been successfully implemented/installed, representatives from CT RC&D and CT DoAG will conduct a site visit.

*Detailed information provided in Grant Guidance



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HOW TO APPLY

[CTRCD.ORG/CLIMATE-SMART-AGRICULTURE](https://ctrcd.org/climate-smart-agriculture)



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LIVE GRANT APPLICATION DEMONSTRATION



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Application Form

Heads up! Saving your progress now will store a copy of your entry on this server and the site owner may have access to it. For security reasons, sensitive information such as mailing addresses and file uploads will have to be re-entered when you resume.

[Continue](#)

[Go Back](#)

SAVE & RESUME LATER

Application Form

Your form entry has been saved and a unique link has been created which you can access to resume this form.

Enter your email address to receive the link via email. Alternatively, you can copy and save the link below.

Please note, this link should not be shared and will expire in 30 days, afterwards your form entry will be deleted.

Copy Link

<https://ctrctd.org/climate-smart-agriculture/application/?>



Email *

[Send Link](#)



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Confirmed on the website



Application Form

Thank you for your application for the Climate Smart Agriculture Grant! We will be in touch with you shortly.

APPLICATION CONFIRMATION



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We have received your application for the Climate Smart Agriculture Grant. We will let you know if we have questions or require additional information as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Sarah Layton
CT RC&D Agricultural Programs Coordinator

slayton@ctrcd.org

860-345-3977 ext. 102

Confirmation sent to your email



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QUESTIONS?

I'm here to help!

Sarah Layton
Ag. Programs Coordinator
slayton@ctracd.org
860-345-3977 x102



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