

Lower James RC&D

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<http://www.sdrcd.org>

Farm Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development

Total Project Annual Cost: \$250,000

RC&D Federal Funds: \$50,000

During the past year, the Lower James RC&D Council continued to provide project leadership to the statewide Agricultural Energy Committee established in December of 2007 by the South Dakota Association of RC&D's. The goals established by the Agricultural Energy Committee included informational workshops, access by landowners to assistance for energy audits, and a web site on agricultural energy efficiency and renewable energy information.

Twelve informational workshops were held across the state last year with 600 attendees, and the workshops were covered by daily newspapers and television. Each workshop was planned and lead by a local partnership, often involving conservation districts, rural electrics, farmers, community development corporations, the RC&D Council, and the cooperative extension service. Funding for workshops was provided by local sponsors, the SD Department of Agriculture, the South Dakota RC&D Association, Natural Resources Conservation Service, SD 25x'25 Energy Alliance, and the North Central Risk Management Education Center. Speakers included the Agricultural Energy Committee members such as: SD Wind Association, SD State University, Rural Electric Cooperatives, Landowners with Renewable Energy Systems, Rural Development, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, and the Public Utilities Commission.



A grant application was funded (\$100,000) to East River Electric to provide technical assistance for energy audits to farms and rural businesses during 2009/2010. This Rural Development grant application was developed by a partnership of South Dakota State University, RC&D Councils, and East River Electric Cooperative.



Funding for a web site on agricultural energy efficiency and renewable energy is secured, and the site will be established in early 2010. The site will be a partnership site with the SD Wind Energy Association, the Ag Energy Committee, and the SD 25x'25 Alliance. Web management will be by the SDSU Wind Application Center.