



# “Rural Energy for America Program” Section 9007 Energy Program

**Grants available for up to 25% of project costs, i.e. \$100,000 project could receive a \$25,000 grant!!!**

## **Who is eligible?**

- **An agricultural producer** (individual or entity) directly engaged in the production of agricultural products and obtains at least 50% or greater of their gross income from their agriculture business.
- **A rural small business** – an entity is considered a small business in accordance with SBA’s (Small Business Administration) small business size standards (by NAICS codes). SBA small size standards can be found at <http://www.sba.gov/size/index.html>

## **Types of Projects**

- **Renewable Energy-** Biomass projects- wood burners for greenhouses or tobacco barns, on farm solar or wind. Anaerobic digesters are also eligible.
- **Energy Efficiency-** Making energy improvements to a building or process that will reduce the amount of energy used (LP gas, electricity, and/or other forms of energy). Examples: Lighting improvements, variable speed drives for dairy farms, curing controls for barns, insulating buildings or barns, and more efficient heating systems. Typically at least a 20% projected savings is needed. Successful projects of note include: lighting improvements, heating and cooling improvements, energy improvements to greenhouses, grain drier replacements, improvements to swine and poultry facilities, and irrigation projects (switching from diesel to electric motors).

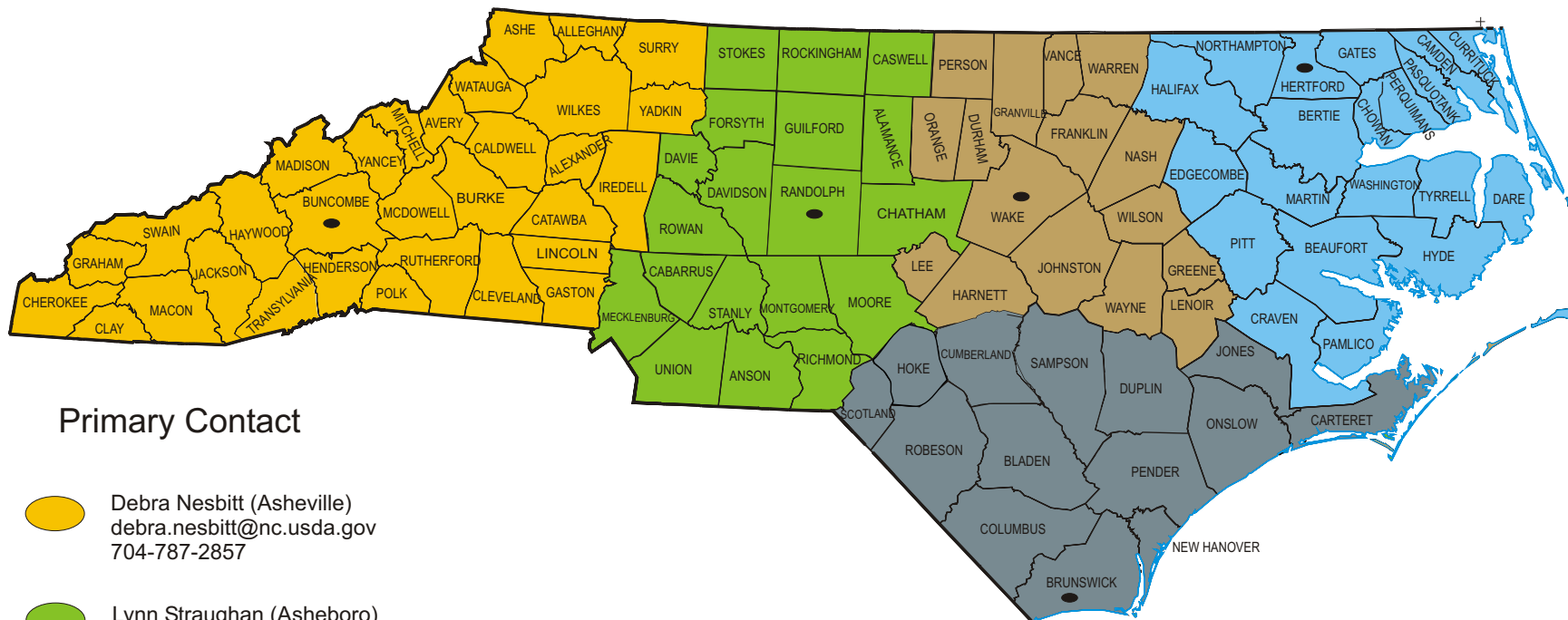
## **Other Requirements/Information**

- Applications must be submitted prior to completing the work.
- Project costs consist of all cost for purchase and installation of renewable energy system or energy efficiency improvement.
- Grants are awarded based on a competitive scoring process, your local Rural Development office can provide more information on the scoring criteria.
- Application deadlines are typically in the summer of each year ~~around June or July~~. However, anyone interested should get the application process started as soon as possible. **Application deadlines for FY 2014 are not set at this time.**

## **How to Get Started**

Contact your local USDA Rural Development office to discuss potential projects and program eligibility. We can guide you through the process and help insure that you submit all of the necessary information with your grant request. The attached map lists the contacts by county location across North Carolina. If they are unavailable you may contact David Thigpen at 919-873-2065 in our Raleigh office to discuss the program.

# North Carolina - USDA Rural Development Energy Boundaries October 2012



## Primary Contact

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- Lynn Straughan (Asheboro)  
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## Secondary Contact

Bill Tew (Lee, Harnett, Cumberland and Hoke counties)  
919-776-4331 X4

Joshua Carswell (Surry, Yadkin, Alexander, Iredell, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston and Cleveland counties)  
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