



A Business Opportunity: Become a Technical Service Provider for the new NRCS Agricultural Energy Initiative

The US Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is looking for qualified individuals and businesses experienced in the Energy Conservation sector to assist them in implementing their NEW energy initiative. This initiative is an opportunity to increase or expand your business to provide Ag Energy Management Plans (AgEMP) and energy-related services to Pennsylvania farms participating in the energy initiative through NRCS programs.

What opportunities exist for you or your business?

- Perform on-farm data collection and inventory of existing energy use and potential savings



- Write energy management plans for farms and work with landowners on energy saving alternatives. Plans can be either *Headquarters* or *Landscape* plans (see following page for more info)
- Provide technical assistance with energy efficiency and conservation measures in areas on the farm such as lighting, heating/cooling, ventilation, and pumping
- Assist in energy management plan implementation and construction oversight and inspections

How do you take advantage of these opportunities?

In order to take advantage of these new business opportunities an individual, business, or entity must register and become certified as a *Technical Service Provider (TSP)*.

Once certified, a TSP is placed on a registry. Farmers wishing to participate in this energy initiative must apply and sign a contract for an AgEMP. The farmer then must procure, and pay for, the services of a TSP from the registry.

Certification requires certain experience and education criteria, completing online training, and submitting a sample plan for review.

For more information on certification requirements, please see the next page.



Is there training available for certification?

YES. NRCS, in partnership with SEDA-COG's Energy Resource Center and Penn State University Ag Engineering, is hosting a 2-day training workshop.



The purpose of this training is to provide potential TSPs the opportunity to [learn about NRCS programs from NRCS personnel, participate in sessions that exempt them from required online trainings, and provide hands-on assistance with the online TSP registration and training process.](#)

The process of registering can be time consuming when attempting on your own, but this training will provide you the time, resources, expertise, instruction to streamline the process. [We guarantee it will be time well spent.](#)

Specific training topics and objectives:



- Overview of plan development criteria, with breakout sessions for Headquarters and Landscape Ag Energy Management Plans
- Cover NRCS programs so you can understand the business opportunities beyond your assessment and plan writing services
- A portion of the training will be in a computer lab facility allowing you to gain hands-on assistance with online registration in the TSP registry
- Provide classroom and on-farm training for Headquarters plans that will cover real-life examples and data collection you can use in the development of a sample plan required for certification

Technical Service Provider certification criteria:

NRCS is looking for individuals experienced in the energy field. Certain education and experience criteria for TSPs can be found on the TSP website at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp>. Click “Active CAP Eligibility Criteria.” Individuals can qualify by meeting either education or experience criteria. **Many knowledge and training requirements pertaining to NRCS programs will be met through attending this training.** This training will help to streamline the online registration process by offering computer lab facilities and hands-on assistance by NRCS experts. This training also provides on-farm training and data collection that participants can use in developing a sample plan, which must be submitted for review.

Headquarters Ag Energy Management Plan = An Ag Energy Management Plan (AgEMP) for Headquarters is a site-specific evaluation to help a producer address on-farm energy conservation and efficiency issues and opportunities pertaining to barns and out buildings, grain storage, animal housing, milking, manure storage/pumping, etc.

Landscape Ag Energy Management Plan = An AgEMP for Landscape is a site-specific evaluation to help producers address field energy conservation and efficiency issues and opportunities pertaining to tillage, planting, and harvesting, grazing, irrigation, etc.

For more information on the plan development criteria for Ag Energy Management Plans go to the TSP website listed above and click “Plan Development Criteria.” Plan development criteria will be explained at this training and will cover the required elements of each type of plan.

For More Information:

If you are interested in becoming a TSP and would like more information please contact Stacy Koch at 570-925-5531. [Look for training announcements with dates and registration information coming soon.](#)

Training Sponsors



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