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Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper

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Colorado Energy Office Releases \$370,000 in USDA Funds to Assist the Agricultural Industry

Funds will help finance energy and water savings for irrigators, dairies, greenhouses, nurseries and cold storage facilities

DENVER – June 20, 2018 – The Colorado Energy Office (CEO), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, today released \$370,000 in project assistance funds through the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The funding is available to Colorado agricultural irrigators, dairies, greenhouses, nurseries and cold storage facilities. The deadline to apply is July 13, 2018.

Applicants must be enrolled in the Colorado Agricultural Energy Efficiency (AgEE) program through CEO and complete an energy audit to receive funding for projects. The Colorado AgEE program provides free energy audits and technical support to Colorado producers with assistance in selecting and implementing cost-effective projects that reduce energy use, operating costs and environmental impacts. Interested participants can enroll in the Colorado AgEE program through its [online application](#).

“The Colorado AgEE program demonstrates that producers are motivated to implement energy saving projects when provided the right technical and financial assistance. The success of this program hinges on our partners, like USDA, whose funding gives participants the ability to implement energy improvements and increase profits,” said Michael Turner, Director of Commercial & Industrial Energy Services at CEO. Turner added, “This is the third RCPP funding round in the past two years, with more funding opportunities scheduled for this year.”

CEO was selected for a \$1.1 million USDA RCPP award to help finance energy efficiency improvements for Colorado agricultural producers. The award is matched through a \$1.3 million cash and in-kind combined contribution from CEO, the Colorado Department of Agriculture, and utility and industry partners. Over the two-year grant period, the efficiency improvements are expected to achieve over 5,250 MWh of electricity savings and 524,000 gallons of water savings annually.

In 2015, CEO launched the Colorado AgEE program to facilitate energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for agricultural producers. To date, more than 200 producers have participated, and the program has identified more than 14,500 MWh of potential electricity savings and 1.6M therms of potential gas savings. The program is expected to generate more than \$4.5 million in potential savings within five years.

For more information about the Colorado AgEE program, contact Michael Turner at michael.a.turner@state.co.us.

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About the USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program is a partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation. For more information, visit nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/.

About the Colorado Energy Office

The Colorado Energy Office works to deliver cost-effective energy services and advance innovative energy solutions for the benefit of all Coloradans. Go to colorado.gov/energyoffice to learn more.