



# **Solarizing Rural America: How we can sow the sun and REAP the benefits!**

# Hi! I'm Heaven Campbell.

---

Florida Program Director,  
Solar United Neighbors

- Big solar nerd
- Farming family
- Fast talker



WHAT IS SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS?



**We're a vendor neutral,  
national 501(c)(3)  
nonprofit.**

WHAT IS SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS?

**We help people  
go solar,  
join together,  
& fight for their  
energy rights.**

**What is REAP?**

# REAP – Rural Energy for America Program

---

The Rural Energy for America Program helps farmers & rural business owners access renewable & efficient energy technologies.



This program is **underutilized!**

# REAP – Rural Energy for America Program

---

## Two Programs Paths:

### Loan Guarantee Program

- Up to 75% of total eligible project costs

### »» Grant Program ««

- Up to 50% of total eligible project costs



# REAP – Rural Energy for America Program

---

## Eligible Technologies:

### Renewable Energy Systems

- Biomass
- Geothermal for electric generation or direct use
- Hydropower (below 30 megawatts)
- Hydrogen
- Small and large wind generation
- Small and large solar generation
- Ocean (tidal, current, thermal) generation

### Energy Efficiency Improvements



# Eligibility

---

## 2 groups are eligible for REAP grants:

1. Farmers
  - 50% or more of gross income from agricultural operations
2. Rural small businesses:
  - Rural area (per USDA Rural Eligibility Map)
  - Small business (net worth <\$15M, net annual income <\$5M)

# Business benefits to going solar

---



- Enjoy more energy choice
- Reduce & control energy costs
- Improve your energy security
- Clean, abundant solar energy
- Save up to 50% with REAP grant
- Tax incentives (ITC and MACRS)

ITC: Investment Tax Credit

MACRS: Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System

# What's new with REAP?

---

The IRA:

- \$1.7B additional funding available until 2031
- Raised the maximum grant from 25% to 50%
- Raised project size cap to \$1M for renewable energy projects



# How to apply for a REAP solar grant

**Submit your REAP  
application *before*  
building your project.**



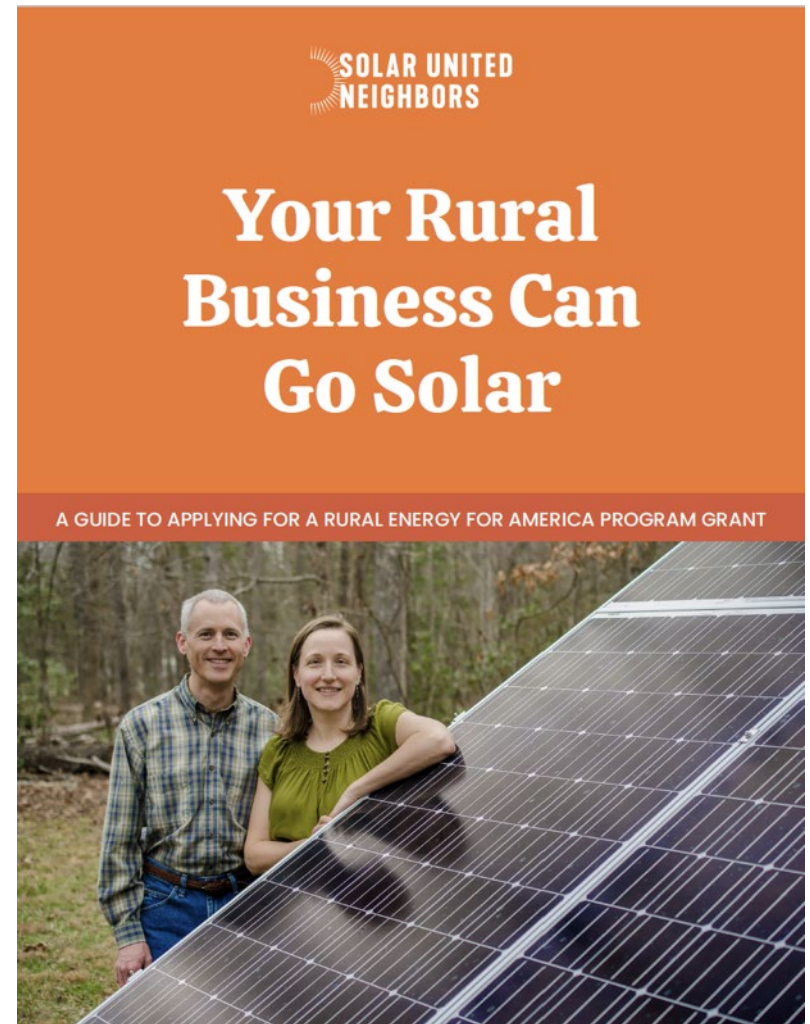
# **Our new REAP application guide:**

[solarunitedneighbors.org/reap](https://solarunitedneighbors.org/reap)

# Our guide includes:

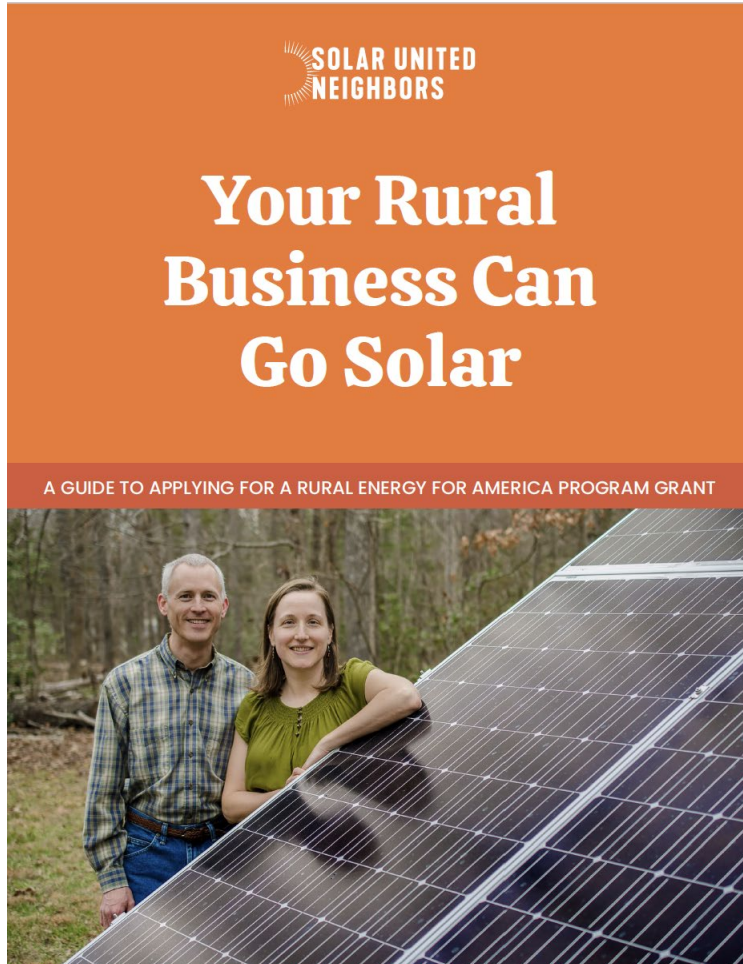
---

- Program basics
- Eligibility
- Application process
- Forms & materials
- How to apply:
  - Step-by-step
  - Score estimates
- List of pros



# For step-by-step instructions:

[solarunitedneighbors.org/reap](https://solarunitedneighbors.org/reap)



## How to apply

**Blocks I. B., C., and I.D. are self explanatory.**

### POINTS TIP

**Up to 10 discretionary points may be awarded by the Office of Rural Development's State Director for any of these criteria:**

- Achieves geographic diversity
- Owned by a veteran
- Owned by a socially-disadvantaged group (members of which have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity without regard to their individual qualities. Note: The application must include a statement indicating the applicants are socially-disadvantaged).
- The project advances a Presidential Initiative or a Secretary of Agriculture priority
- Project location is in a federally-declared disaster area (within the last two years)

### Block II: Project Title

Folks typically title their project with a short description. For example, "14.5 KW Solar Array for Sally Smith's Apple Farm".

### Block III: System for Awards Management (SAM) Commercial and Unique Entity ID

Each applicant to the REAP grant program must have a Unique Entity ID corresponding to the tax identification number or social security number provided on all components of the REAP grant application.

In order to obtain a Unique Entity ID, you must register your business in SAM and request a Unique Entity ID. This ID code is necessary to complete the REAP application.



# REAP Education Outreach & Support

---

- REAP Application Guide
- Solar Help Desk
- Ready, Set, Solar! (REAP Edition)

# Questions?



**Help us spread the word!**  
**[advocacy@solarunitedneighbors.org](mailto:advocacy@solarunitedneighbors.org)**