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Vermont's congressional delegation — Sens. Patrick Leahy and Bernard Sanders and U.S. Rep. Peter Welch — said Wednesday that 10 Vermont farms and rural businesses will share almost \$100,000 in grants through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy for America Program to launch energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy projects.

Vermont farms and businesses are receiving \$96,754 in grants, including:

Foxchair Mountain Craftsmen of Springfield; Whitney Elms LLC of Vernon; and Vermont Homestead LLC of Putney each will get grants of \$16,600 to install photovoltaic solar generating systems. Seven Vermont farms and businesses are receiving a total of \$46,774 to make energy efficiency improvements to their operations.

Grants across the nation totaling \$11.6 million were announced Wednesday by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack as part of President Obama's rural economic bus tour in the Midwest. Chartered under the 2008 Farm Bill, the REAP Program helps farmers, ranchers and rural small businesses to buy and install renewable energy systems and to make energy-efficiency improvements.

