

Agriculture Energy Investment Plan

On-Farm Energy Assessments - Farmer Guidelines

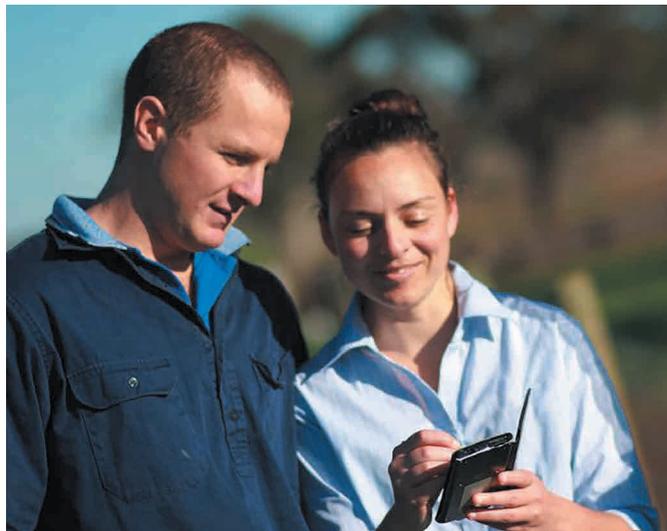
This document explains who can apply for a free On-Farm Energy Assessment and how.

1. What is an On-farm Energy assessment?

Independent on-farm energy assessments are available free of charge to eligible primary producers.

The on-farm energy assessments will analyse on-farm energy use (electricity, gas and diesel) and identify opportunities to make energy savings; improve output volumes per energy unit; and convert to renewable energy sources. The assessments will make recommendations tailored to the type and size of farms.

The on-farm energy assessments will be conducted by registered independent experts to the national standard (AS/NZS 3598.2:2014). Type One and Type Two energy assessments will be available depending on on-farm energy expenditure.



2. Who is eligible for on-farm energy assessments?

To be eligible for an on-farm energy assessment, farms must:

- be a business with an Australian Business Number (ABN);
- have an eligible farm located in Victoria;
- be a primary producer which is:
 - cultivating or propagating plants, fungi or their products or parts (including seeds, spores, bulbs and similar things) in any physical environment; or
 - maintaining animals for the purpose of selling them or their bodily produce (including natural increase); or
 - manufacturing dairy produce from raw material that they produce; or
 - operating on-land aquaculture facilities.
- spend more than \$8,000 per annum (including GST) on energy on-farm inclusive of electricity, gas, LPG and diesel (excluding energy for transport);
- be a legal entity;¹
- meet all industrial relations obligations as an employer in accordance with the National Employment Standards; and
- agree to participate in future program evaluation activity.



¹ A legal entity is an association, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, trustee of a trust, or individual that has legal standing in the eyes of the law. A legal entity has legal capacity to enter into agreements or contracts, assume obligations, incur and pay debts, sue and be sued in its own right, and to be held responsible for its actions.



3. Who is not eligible for an on-farm energy assessment?

- primary producers engaged in forestry, on-sea aquaculture and agriculture transport operators;
- primary producers that have energy expenses below \$8,000 (including GST);
- commonwealth, state and local government agency or body;
- publicly funded research institutions;
- industry associations;
- not-for-profit organisations; and
- community-based organisations.

If you are unsure about your eligibility or have questions about the application process, please contact Agriculture Victoria at agenergy@ecodev.vic.gov.au

4. How do I apply for an on-farm energy assessment?

Farmers are encouraged to apply online at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy. A downloadable version of the application form is also available at this web address.

5. What documentation will be required for the application?

Farmers will need to provide the following documentation when applying for an on-farm energy assessment:

- your ABN; and
- copies of energy bills for at least one quarter that most represents the average energy consumption and expenses on-farm in the 12 months prior to lodging your application; and
- for diesel expenses, information about usage and expenses that only relate to diesel-powered equipment used on-farm. When the application is being assessed, farmers may be contacted by Agriculture Victoria to provide further records that demonstrate usage and expenses.

6. What are multiple farm/site assessments?

A group of farmers can apply to have a group assessment to identify opportunities for large shared investments which create benefits for multiple farmers and/or the broader community. All farmers participating in the joint assessment will need to complete the application by providing information about their farm. The farmers will also need to include the business name and ABN of the other farmers in the joint application.

If an assessor identifies an opportunity for a farm to collaborate with nearby farms, Agriculture Victoria will contact the identified farms and facilitate a discussion to enable farmers to make an informed decision on opportunities to collaborate.



7. What happens after a farmer's application is approved?

You will be advised:

- you have met the eligibility criteria;
- you have been allocated an assessor and the assessor's details.

If the farmer is not satisfied with the assessor who has been allocated, the farmer can request a new assessor be appointed. This may *significantly* delay the timing of the assessment. Such requests may be accommodated within time and resourcing constraints at the discretion of the Department.

8. What if the application is unsuccessful?

You will be advised if you have not met the criteria and informed of the reasons so you can re-apply.

9. Which on-farm energy assessment will applicants receive?

The type of assessment you receive will depend on your farm's total annual energy expenditure, as shown below.

Energy assessments available by energy expenditure

Primary producer	Type of assessment
Annual energy expenditure <\$8,000 (GST inclusive)	Not Eligible
Annual energy expenditure between \$8,000 to \$24,999 (GST inclusive)	Type 1 energy assessment
Annual energy expenditure >\$25,000 (GST inclusive)	Type 2 energy assessment
Joint applications (groups of nearby farmers)	Type 2 energy assessment

Energy Assessment (Type One) – will provide an overview of energy performance. It will identify no-cost and low-cost opportunities for improvements. Type one assessments will prioritise actions and upgrades based on return on investment.

Energy Assessment (Type Two) – will provide a detailed assessment involving a comprehensive review and analysis of equipment, systems, and operational characteristics of the whole farm. Type two assessments include a financial analysis of recommended energy performance improvements including own-generation opportunities. Assessments will calculate energy savings and provide costs and benefits and prioritise actions and upgrades.²

² AS/NZS 3598.2:2014 Energy Audits industrial and Related Activities

10. How many on-farm energy assessments are available?

Assessments are available to eligible primary producers until March 2020 or until available funding is exhausted (whichever occurs first).

11. Confidentiality

Any personal information provided by the Applicant and the Energy Assessors or a third party in an application will be collected by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) for the purpose of program administration. This information may be provided to other Victorian Government bodies for the purposes of assessing on-farm energy grants in the future. For joint applications, the lead applicant is responsible for ensuring all parties to the application are aware of the privacy declaration.

Data gathered through assessments may be compiled, aggregated and anonymised by Agriculture Victoria for program evaluation and research purposes.

Any personal information collected, held, managed, used, disclosed or transferred will be held in accordance with the provisions of the Information Privacy Act 2000 (VIC) and other applicable laws.

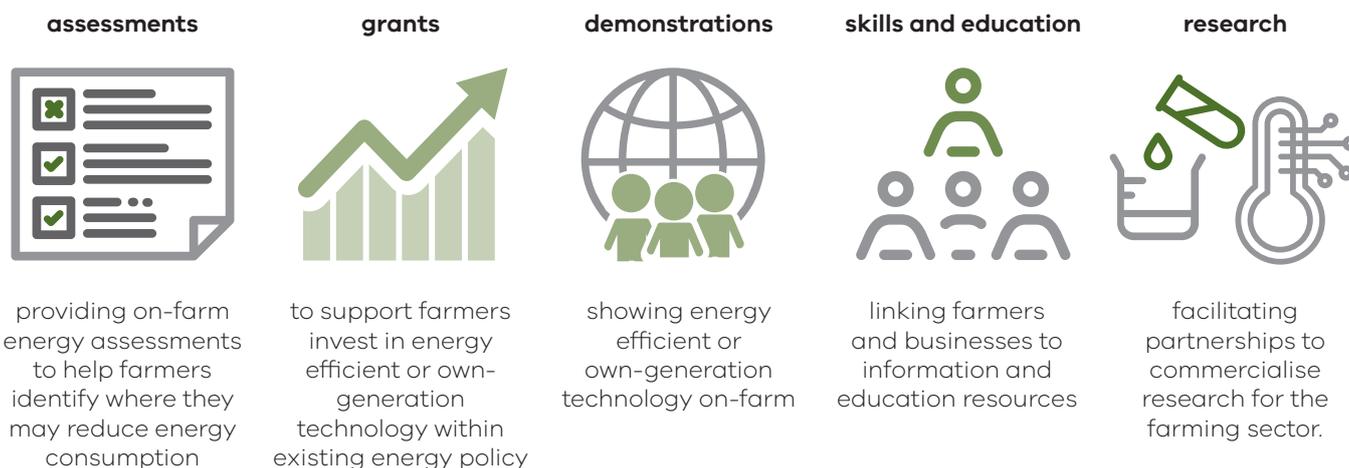
DEDJTR is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. DEDJTR's Privacy Policy can be found online at www.economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au. Enquiries about access to information should be directed to the DEDJTR's Privacy Unit by phone on (03) 9651 9749 or email privacy@ecodev.vic.gov.au.

The Department may publicise the benefits accruing to the Recipient and/or the State associated with the provision of the On-farm Energy Assessment and the State's support for the assessment. The Department may include the name of the Recipient and/or the On-farm Energy Assessment cost in any publicity material and in the Department's annual report.

12. The Agriculture Energy Investment Plan

The Agriculture Energy Investment Plan (AEIP) supports on-farm businesses to improve energy productivity, manage energy costs, improve energy reliability and support own-generation capacity.

The AEIP comprises five key actions:



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