



**Time & Tide**  
**Resource Conservation & Development Area**

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**March 11, 2009**  
**PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

The Time & Tide Resource Conservation & Development Area Organization in conjunction with the USDA Rural Development Agency and the Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition will host a free workshop that presents information about the USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) and also the Value-Added Producer Grant Program (VAPG). Guest speakers John Sheehan and Mike Grondin from the Bangor USDA Rural Development Agency Office will be the guest speakers.

REAP offers grants, guaranteed loans and combination grant/guaranteed loans to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements.

VAPG provides grant funds (50% matching funds required) to agricultural producers for planning activities and working capital expenses for developing a value-added agricultural product project.

The workshop is geared towards small business owners and/or farmers who may be interested in reducing energy costs, generating their own "green power," or are looking for new ways to increase the viability of their business/farm.

The workshop will be held Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 09:00-11:00 am at the Thomas College Atrium, 180 West River Road, Waterville. Seating is limited, please RSVP prior to March 27<sup>th</sup> by contacting the Time & Tide RC&D Area office at (207) 622-7847, x4 or email: [carl.perry@me.usda.gov](mailto:carl.perry@me.usda.gov)

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