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# Promoting an Energy Efficient America with Outreach Education

Consumption of energy affects many things, from food production to human health, and education to socioeconomic status. Global demand for energy is increasing in the face of limited resources, making our energy decisions of growing importance.

## HOW FOOD-RELATED ENERGY IS CONSUMED IN THE UNITED STATES

Energy is required to **GENERATE ELECTRICITY** and **FUEL TRANSPORTATION**. Food-related energy consumption accounts for nearly 15% of the national energy budget for residential and commercial use:



## PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES

The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and Cooperative Extension System (CES)\* support several **OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAMS** directed toward energy efficiency in businesses, homes, and farms.



**THE STATE ENERGY EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP (SEEP)** is a collaboration among NIFA, USDA Rural Development, Department of Energy (DOE), and CES. Through this collaboration, DOE funded projects managed by state energy offices and Extension to solve energy challenges at the local, regional, and state levels. Projects run by the **University of Nebraska, University of Kentucky, and University of Wisconsin** resulted in:

- Reduced fuel consumption
- Increased home energy efficiency
- New sustainable energy partnerships



**THE ENERGY MASTER PROGRAM** through **Colorado State University Extension** offers training on energy challenges, potential solutions, and individual choices. The nearly 85 Colorado residents certified in the program:

- Conducted a community solar garden feasibility study
- Performed home energy audits
- Held community events to raise energy efficiency awareness
- Translated energy bill information to Spanish



**E<sup>3</sup>A: EXPLORING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND ALTERNATIVES** from **Montana State University and University of Wyoming Extension** is a train-the-trainer curriculum for natural resource professionals. The program teaches about energy efficiency and small renewable energy technologies for home, farm, and ranch. Extension specialists from more than 20 states have been trained with E<sup>3</sup>A materials, which are freely available to educators nationwide at [www.e3a4u.info](http://www.e3a4u.info).

\* COOPERATIVE EXTENSION IS A NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL NETWORK THAT LINKS LOCAL AND CAMPUS-BASED EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS FROM LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES—ALONG WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PARTNERS—TO RESIDENTS OF MORE THAN 3,000 COUNTIES/PARISHES IN ALL 50 STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND U.S. TERRITORIES. EXTENSION TRANSLATES SCIENCE INTO FORMATS THAT PEOPLE USE TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS.