

Renewable Energy & Rural America

OUR POSITION

Renewable energy, when developed responsibly, offers meaningful economic and community benefits to rural America. REFA supports policies that expand fair, transparent, and well-designed renewable projects.

WHY IT MATTERS

Farming in America is under real pressure. Input costs continue to climb, markets are volatile, weather risks are increasing, and many families are navigating financial and environmental stresses. Under these circumstances, it would be shortsighted to remove one of the tools that can help stabilize income and keep land in agricultural production. Renewable energy is not a replacement for farming, but it can be one of the options that helps a farm stay resilient through difficult cycles. Renewable energy also strengthens rural communities by expanding local tax bases, improving infrastructure, and supporting long-term land stewardship.

WHAT WE SUPPORT

REFA supports renewable energy as an economic opportunity that strengthens farm families and rural communities. Wind, solar, and storage projects can provide dependable revenue, expand local tax bases, and support community services. When done well, renewable energy contributes to the long-term vitality of rural regions.

REFA supports renewable development models that respect agriculture and enhance local outcomes. Projects should be designed to fit the agricultural landscape—protect soil, maintain working lands if desired, and support local economies. Well-planned development ensures renewable energy complements, rather than displaces, rural life.

REFA supports thoughtful siting and dual-use practices where feasible. Landowners and developers should consider approaches that maintain agricultural productivity, such as sheep & cattle grazing or pairing solar with perennial crops. REFA encourages designs that protect soil, preserve flexibility, and reflect the long-term needs of working lands. Every operation is different. Farmers deserve the space to evaluate opportunities, ask questions, learn from peers, and make choices based on what will sustain their land, business, and family.

REFA supports policy frameworks that allow rural landowners to access renewable energy opportunities. Clear, consistent state and/or local policies help farmers and ranchers negotiate confidently and participate in responsible development.

ABOUT REFA

The [Renewable Energy Farmers of America](#) is a 501(c)(6) membership trade association that empowers farmer and rancher landowners with expert guidance, education, peer-to-peer networking and advocacy for renewable energy decisions while protecting property rights.