

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

Anne M. Gobi
STATE SENATOR
Worcester, Hampden,
Hampshire & Middlesex

Tel. (617) 722-1540
Fax (617) 722-1078
E-Mail: Anne.Gobi@masenate.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Wednesday, November 29, 2017
1540

CONTACT: Brian Ferrarese
PHONE: 617-722-

Gobi and Berthiaume Announce Renewable Energy Grants for Local Farms

BOSTON – **Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer)** and **Representative Donald R. Berthiaume, Jr (R-Spencer)** have announced four clean energy grants awarded to three farms in Hardwick and West Brookfield. The grants are being funded through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources’ (MDAR) Agricultural Energy Grant Program (AgEnergy) in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

“Congratulations to Robinson Farm, Hunt Road Berry Farm, and Hardwick Sugar Shack on being selected for these grant awards,” said Senator Gobi. “The Ag-Energy grant program has done a phenomenal job in supporting small farmers, while working to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, making for a better Commonwealth.”

“Massachusetts continues to be a leader in promoting and supporting renewable energy and I applaud the Baker-Polito Administration for their commitment to ensuring that our farmers benefit from this movement,” said Rep. Berthiaume. “AgEnergy projects make our farms more viable, environmentally sound, and can help offset the cost of production, therefore allowing farmers to keep more of their well-earned profits.”

Hardwick Sugar Shack in Hardwick will be receiving a \$5,800 grant for a Reverse Osmosis Membrane Replacement and Upgrade project. Reverse osmosis is a water purification technology that uses a semipermeable membrane to remove ions, molecules, and larger particles from drinking water. Hardwick Sugar Shack produces and sells locally made maple sugar syrup.

Robinson Farm in Hardwick will be receiving a \$30,000 grant for construction of a 15 kW PV system. Family owned since 1892, Robinson Farm is an organic farm that produces raw cow’s milk, grass fed beef, eggs, season vegetables, artisanal cheeses and more.

Hunt Road Berry Farm in West Brookfield will be receiving two grants; a \$10,000 grant for construction of a 7.425 kW PV system and \$8,562 for a centralized walk-in cooler. Hunt Road Berry Farm is a family run farm specializing in berries, peaches, and vegetables, all grown organically. They offer selections from blueberries to broccolini to customers and local restaurants.

Farms receiving funding are projected to save over \$200,000 annually and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 660 tons each year.

For more information contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540 or visit MDAR's website at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-agricultural-resources>.

###