

## Helping Make Energy Efficiency Achievable By Kale Scarff, and Vern Steinborn

The Government of Alberta, through *Growing Forward 2 (GF2)* a federal, provincial, territorial initiative, offers two incentive-based programs aimed at helping Alberta farmers and ranchers reduce energy consumption and associated costs.

The *GF2* On-Farm Energy Management Program (OFEMP) and the *GF2* On-Farm Solar Photovoltaic (OFSPV) Program offer farmers and ranchers the opportunity to become energy efficient by sharing the cost to purchase energy efficient or renewable technologies. These initiatives are intended to make energy efficient technology as affordable as current technology, making the environmentally friendly choice also the economically sensible choice.

There are many technologies and practices farmers and ranchers can implement on their operations to reduce their energy footprint and protect (and possibly even increase) profit margins. Carbon emission reduction and energy sustainability can both be practiced while also running an economically sustainable farm.

Eligible projects of OFEMP include:

- Construction projects that install high-efficiency equipment from the program's Funding List;
- Retrofit projects that improve operation energy usage per unit of production; and
- Installation of sub-metres to monitor on-farm electricity and/or natural gas usage.

Eligible OFSPV systems must be:

- Grid-tied, not off-grid;
- Approved under Alberta's Micro-Generation Legislation;
- Positioned to optimize sunshine and minimize shading;
- Have manufacturer-warranties on: Solar modules, Racking, Inverters and/or Micro-inverters; and
- Producing power that is used in the production of a primary commodity.

The Government has partnered with three grassroots organizations staffed with Energy Outreach Officers whose role is to promote the OFEMP and the OFSPV Program to Alberta communities. Energy Outreach Officers are available to attend community events, talk about energy efficient technologies, answer questions about the OFEMP and OFSPV Program, and explain the benefits of these programs. The Outreach Officers are also more than happy to meet one-on-one with you to help you find potential energy efficiency solutions for your operation.

If you would like more information on these programs and how you can access funding, you can visit [www.growingforward.alberta.ca](http://www.growingforward.alberta.ca) and subscribe for updates, or contact your regional Energy Outreach Officer.

### Regional Contact Information:

Energy Outreach Officer – Kale Scarff, Phone: (780) 307-7849, Email: [groextension@telus.net](mailto:groextension@telus.net)