Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

www.sare.org

## What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded over $12.0 million to more than 202 initiatives [1].

### SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

### SARE communicates results

SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining an online library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.

# SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

# Maryland

Project Highlight: Maryland Extension Training: Solar Photovoltaic Options, Opportunities and Challenges

A team of researchers and educators at the University of Maryland collaborated to create an in-depth training curriculum to help producers learn about the options, opportunities and challenges associated with on-farm solar power. Due to increasing energy costs and decreasing costs of solar technology, many farms in Maryland are considering solar electric installations to power their operations. However, only 7.25% of farms in Maryland currently have solar panels installed, with many agricultural communities lacking the knowledge, technical expertise and experience necessary to facilitate this demand for on-farm solar. To address these challenges, Dr. Drew Schiavone, an energy conservation and technology specialist at the University of Maryland, obtained a SARE grant to create an educational training initiative.

The project launched a series of four regional “train-the-trainer” workshops designed to provide Extension educators and other agricultural service providers with the technical skills, knowledge, attitude and awareness needed to conduct training programs. In conjunction with these workshops, the University of Maryland also created a catalog of videos that are a great resource for farmers or anyone else looking to install solar panels. The educational curriculum and associated workshops explore the basic principles of solar PV technology and its appropriate on-farm applications, and provide an overview of solar contracts and leasing options relevant to Maryland farmers. By expanding access to this type of training, more producers will be able to produce clean energy and increase the sustainability of their farms.

For more information on this project, see sare.org/projects and search for project number ENE20-165.

## SARE in Maryland

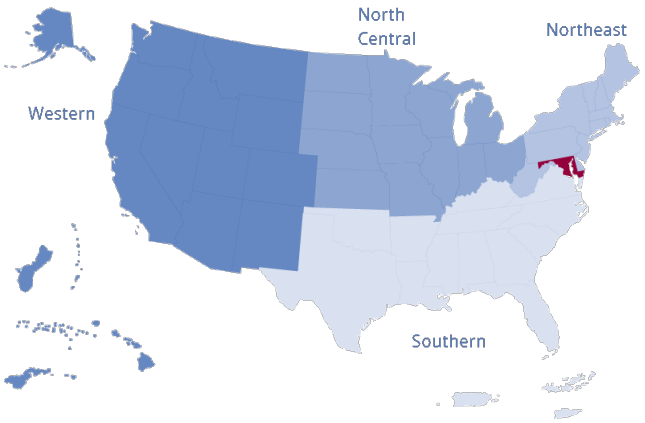
northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/maryland/

**$12,012,622 in total funding**

**202 grant projects**

(since 1988 [1])

For a complete list of Maryland grant projects, go to projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/




[1] These totals reflect available data; complete information may not be available for all grant programs prior to 2016.

# SARE in Maryland, 2021–2026

This is a summary of recent SARE-funded activities and impacts in the state. To search all SARE projects visit projects.sare.org. For a list of all projects in Maryland visit projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/.

## Grants awarded

### Total awards: **56 grants**

| | |
|---|---|
| 15 | Farmer/Rancher |
| 8 | Research and Education |
| 3 | Professional Development Program |
| 7 | On Farm Research/Partnership |
| 7 | Graduate Student |
| 4 | PDP State Program [2] |
| 6 | Research Only |
| 5 | Farming Community |
| 1 | Meat and Poultry Processing |

### Total funding: **$6,011,298**

| | |
|---|---|
| $348,082 | Farmer/Rancher |
| $1,781,146 | Research and Education |
| $495,452 | Professional Development Program |
| $199,088 | On Farm Research/Partnership |
| $104,870 | Graduate Student |
| $494,068 | PDP State Program [2] |
| $1,107,704 | Research Only |
| $1,070,889 | Farming Community |
| $410,000 | Meat and Poultry Processing |

[2] The Professional Development Program (PDP) State Program is a non-competitive award that funds the activities of the state coordinator(s). See more below.

## Farmer and rancher impacts

SARE grantees have reported the following impacts from their projects:

**7,503 farmers participated in a SARE-funded project**

**356 farmers changed a practice**

For a complete list of Maryland awards, visit:
projects.sare.org/state-fact-sheets/

Learn about local impacts at:
northeast.sare.org/sare-in-your-state/maryland/

## Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit northeast.sare.org/state-profiles/maryland/ to learn more.

Naveen Kumar Dixit
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
(410) 621-3650
fnaveenkumar@umes.edu

Emily Zobel
UME
(410) 228-8800
ezobel@umd.edu

SARE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SARE is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).