**Contacts:**
Barbara Robuck
West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund
814.865.7380
wppsef@ems.psu.edu

Mark Swankler
Republic Food Enterprise Center
724.246.1536
www.republicfoodenterprisecenter.org

**West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund Awards**
**Energy Efficiency Grant To the Republic Food Enterprise Center**

**For immediate release: April 16, 2015**

Republic, PA – The Republic Food Enterprise Center (RFEC) announced today that the West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF) has approved a $25,000 grant to assist with the construction of the Center's cool room expansion, which will utilize hybrid cooling technology. The cool room will be used for the storage and processing of vegetables at the Food Hub located in Republic, PA.

The RFEC is a non-profit community organization that serves as a comprehensive Center for the development of sustainable food products and social enterprise for western Pennsylvania which benefits small farms, food deserts, and the working population throughout the region.

"The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund is proud to support this cool room expansion which will allow the RFEC to increase agricultural production and return on investment for farmers; increase the availability of healthy, local produce and products available to the local community; and provide additional full-time positions which will be filled by low-income Fayette County residents. The construction of such a state-of-the art food storage and production facility demonstrates how innovative structures like this have a significant public benefit while leaving a light carbon footprint", said Joel Morrison, WPPSEF Director.

Mark Swankler, General Manager of the RFEC said, "We are grateful to WPPSEF for supporting us in this endeavor. The RFEC was one of the first projects funded by First Lady Michele Obama's Healthy Food Financing Initiative. WPPSEF's funding will enable the RFEC to continue its efforts to assist the farmers of Western Pennsylvania and the local population by providing fresh fruits and vegetables, and employment opportunities, in an economical, sustainable, and environmentally friendly way."

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***The West Penn Power Sustainable Energy Fund (WPPSEF)*** *is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that invests in the deployment of sustainable energy technologies that benefit West Penn Power ratepayers in Pennsylvania. WPPSEF investments are focused in three broad categories:*

- *Deployment of sustainable and clean energy technologies;*
- *Deployment of energy efficiency and conservation technologies; and*
- *Facilitating economic development, environmental betterment, and public education as they relate to sustainable energy deployment in the WPP service region.*

*Visit http://www.wppsef.org for further information.*

**The Republic Food Enterprise Center** is a non-profit community organization operating a food hub in Fayette County that links the gap from farm to table. The mission of the Republic Food Enterprise Center is to promote the economical, physical, and environmental health of our community by making local, healthy food available to everyone.