



NEWS RELEASE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Arizona's water and wastewater funding source

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WIFA Announces \$1.3 Million Loan Closing for the City of Douglas

PHOENIX (June 30, 2014) – The City of Douglas is going solar and becoming more energy efficient. To mitigate increasing energy costs, the City of Douglas obtained a \$1.3 million loan from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona to design and install a 300 kW solar system to power their wastewater treatment plant.

The solar array is projected to generate nearly 520,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year, or 50% of the plant's electric requirements. Douglas will install fixed mounted photovoltaic solar panels. Once installed, Douglas estimates they will save \$32,000 per year in energy costs and \$640,000 over the next 20 years.

Using a renewable energy source like solar power is beneficial to the environment and the pocket book. But, saving energy also means saving water and that's particularly meaningful in an arid state like Arizona. With solar photovoltaic panels, virtually no water is used when generating electricity.

"By using energy more efficiently, we can conserve resources and preserve Arizona's energy and water supplies for future generations," said WIFA Board Chairman Henry Darwin, who is also Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

After evaluating the community's financial situation and the ability of the community to afford the loan, WIFA approved \$400,000 in forgivable principal to offset the project costs. WIFA is dedicated to guiding its resources to communities with the greatest need, and strives to help make important infrastructure projects more affordable for utilities and their ratepayers.

Over the last several years, Douglas has obtained \$15 million in WIFA loans and \$50,000 in planning and design grants to make other improvements to their drinking water and wastewater systems. "Utilizing WIFA's programs, Douglas has been able to implement these water infrastructure projects in a cost effective manner to benefit their residents," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton.

WIFA can fund a wide variety of drinking water, wastewater and water reclamation projects and encourages energy efficiency projects such as Douglas'. Other green projects eligible for WIFA funding include water efficiency and green stormwater infrastructure projects. WIFA also offers funding for projects like nonpoint source pollution control, watershed protection and restoration, and traditional stormwater management.

Projects funded through WIFA are designed to ensure safe, reliable drinking water and proper wastewater treatment. Since its inception in 1992, WIFA has invested over \$2 billion in Arizona's communities.

For more information, please visit WIFA's website at azwifa.gov.

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