



NEWS RELEASE

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY

Arizona's water and wastewater funding source

1110 W. Washington St., Suite 290, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 | azwifa.gov | (602) 364-1310

Date: July 22, 2013

Contact: Susan Craig, Communications Director, 602-364-1236

WIFA Announces \$1.6 Million Loan Closing for City of Bisbee

PHOENIX (July 22, 2013) – The City of Bisbee is going solar and becoming more energy efficient. To mitigate increasing energy costs, the City of Bisbee obtained a \$1.6 million loan from the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) of Arizona to pay for the installation of a 400 kW solar system to power their San Jose Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The solar array will generate nearly 680,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per year, or 60% of the plant's electric requirements. Bisbee will install fixed mounted photovoltaic solar panels. Once installed, Bisbee estimates they will save \$50,000 per year in energy costs and \$1 million 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.

WIFA is dedicated to guiding its resources to communities with the greatest need. "In Bisbee's case, we were able to offset the project costs with \$400,000 in forgivable principal after evaluating the financial impact of the loan along with the benefits this project brings to the community," said WIFA Executive Director, Sandy Sutton. This additional financial assistance gave Bisbee the opportunity to move forward with these energy efficiency improvements and increase the cost-effectiveness of the treatment plant.

"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.

WIFA funds a wide variety of drinking water, wastewater and water reclamation projects and encourages energy efficiency projects such as Bisbee's. 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.

Through low-interest loans, subsidies and grants, WIFA is able to save its customers a significant amount of money. WIFA offers funding for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater projects 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.

###