

Revolving Conservation Fund

City of Visalia



City of Visalia

- Population 130,000
- Off Hwy 99 between Fresno and Bakersfield
- Founded 1852, oldest city in the San Joaquin Valley
- Early emphasis in sustainability (water conservation, recycling, composting, energy efficiency, GHG reduction, etc.)
- Established Natural Resource Conservation Division
2007

Conservation Fund

- Established 2009 by City Council
- In conjunction with receipt of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
- Provide a source of future funding
- Provide competitive edge in future grant funding

Conservation Fund

- Initially funded by EECBG rebate incentives and 50% of retrofit utility cost savings over the first 3 years
- First funding accrued 2012
- Funds transferred in annually at anniversary of project completion
- Used to fund other conservation projects that would “improve the environment”

Initial Projects to Establish Fund

- LED Traffic Signal Retrofit (\$58k)
- Convention Center Lighting Retrofit (\$24k)
- Lighting Retrofit in Two Parking Structures (\$30k)
- Utility Rate Study (\$24k)
 - Consultant reviewed all facilities for most appropriate tariff
 - 50% of resulting savings over one year

Current

- Adopted more formal guidelines for use of funds, 2015
 - May fund any conservation project resulting in utility cost savings
 - Electricity, Gas, Water
 - Maximum 10 year payback
 - Payback must = < lifecycle of the measure
 - Preference to projects that leverage grant funding and/or utility incentives

Current

- May also be used to fund a feasibility analysis or grant proposal for a project with potential large savings for the City (e.g., Renewable Energy)
- May also fund projects without a readily calculable monetary payback if results in positive and measureable impacts on local resource conservation.
 - Example: Design Work for Grant Application
Replacement Occupancy Sensors

Current

- Has been used to fund:
 - Design work for electric vehicle charging stations
(Grant related)
 - Additional lighting retrofit work at Convention Center and Parks.
 - Purchase of replacement EE equipment
- Utility cost savings from these projects accrue back to the fund 100% until payback
- Departments are invoiced annually based on savings
 - Typically projected, but sometimes actual
- Current balance ~\$220,000

Challenges

- Limited new \$ coming into the fund
 - Low hanging fruit has been picked
- Challenge of funding projects that are worthwhile, but lack adequate payback to replenish the fund
 - Water conservation projects
 - GHG Inventory



Thank you

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