Revolving Conservation Fund

City of Visalia
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- 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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