Completion of Municipal Conservation Pilot Projects

New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission
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July 21, 2014
Grants

• February 2012 – ISC approves $100,000 for pilot projects.
• $50,000 grant each to Deming and Silver City
• Final Technical Reports due June 30, 2014
Deming Conservation Project

• 49% of water production used by residential sector.
• Difference in residential January usage and June usage ~ 153 acre-feet.
**What did they do?**

- Offered rebates for replacement of turfgrass with xeriscape.
- Offered rebates for replacement of evaporative coolers with refrigerated air units.
- Met with local landscape contractors and HVAC contractors.
- Advertised program in local paper in autumn 2013 and four times in spring 2014.
- Partnered with PNM for radio and newspaper campaign.
How did they do?

- Two landscape conversions totaling 1,210 ft$^2$
- Eight conversions to refrigerated air
- 16% of grant monies expended

Lessons learned: some of their comments…

- Need focus group of prospective participants
- Program must reflect local economy
- Partner with other programs and agencies
Silver City Conservation Project

• Conservation Plan identified Altamirano Sports Complex as top single water user (2011-2012 data)

• 11.5 acres irrigated cool-season turfgrass

• Annual usage ranged from 48 to 62 acre-feet (2008 – 2012)
What did they do?

• Installed a weather-based irrigation system
• Installed new rotors (higher efficiency, replaced leaking sprinklers)
• Contractor to provide post-installation audit
How did they do?

• System installed by August 2013
• August 2013 – June 2014 usage: 32 af
• Past 5 years usage without July: 39 – 52 af
• Savings potential 19 – 39%
• Post-installation audit not yet completed
Questions?

http://nmawsa.org/ongoing-work/municipal-water-conservation/municipal-conservation-pilot