

# GEFA Conservation Initiatives

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**Reference:** McDowell RJ, CA Pruitt, RA Bahn (eds.), *Proceedings of the 2015 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, April 28-29, 2015, University of Georgia, Athens.

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**Abstract.** GEFA administers both the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Georgia Land Conservation Program. Loans and grants can be made through these programs to local governments and accredited land trusts to preserve Georgia's land resources and protect the quality of our state's waters. GEFA can offer loans for a variety of energy production and energy efficiency projects. Through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the CWSRF, GEFA is able to finance solar installations at water and wastewater treatment facilities. For many municipalities, the power bill is the largest single cost to the government. By producing energy through solar installations or other innovative projects, energy costs are reduced. Energy consumption by a utility is greatly reduced through sewer rehabilitation, and GEFA has extensive experience financing this type of project for municipalities. GEFA provides low-interest financing for local government water utilities to promote and sustain a culture of water conservation in the state of Georgia. Several of GEFA's loan programs can be used to finance a range of water conservation projects in the areas of water loss and end-use water efficiency. Water loss projects addressing "real" losses include pipe replacement and other leak abatement activities. "Apparent" losses, such as metering inaccuracies and water theft are addressed through projects such as meter replacement and installation of automated metering and billing systems. End-use water efficiency projects include upgrading water fixtures (e.g., toilets, faucets, irrigation systems, etc.), encouraging water conservation by utility customers, and water reuse projects.