



Nathan Deal
Governor

GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

Kevin Clark
Executive Director

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Media Contact: [Shane Hix](#), GEFA
404-584-1043 / 404-769-6949

GEFA Approves Environmental Infrastructure Projects Totaling \$3 Million for Five Georgia Communities

ATLANTA – Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) Executive Director Kevin Clark announced today the approval of financing for environmental infrastructure projects in five Georgia communities totaling \$3,036,862. The GEFA executive committee approved the commitments to help finance water and sewer infrastructure improvements for the cities of Boston, Cuthbert and Donalsonville and Bryan and Webster Counties.

“The water, sewer and solid waste programs administered by GEFA assist local governments with improving their environmental infrastructure,” said Clark. “Financing water, sewer and solid waste projects encourages economic growth and the stewardship of our environment.”

Clark expressed appreciation to Gov. Deal and to the members of the General Assembly for their support. He credited the state’s commitment to helping cities and counties finance infrastructure development as one of the main contributors to GEFA’s success.

“GEFA financing for water, sewer and solid waste infrastructure helps communities in all areas of the state,” said Grady Thompson, chairman of the GEFA board of directors and chairman of the Tift County board of commissioners. “The projects that we agreed to finance today demonstrate that GEFA is investing in communities that are willing to invest in themselves.”

GEFA helps communities prepare for economic growth and development through the provision of low-interest loans.

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) is a federal loan program administered by GEFA for water infrastructure projects. Eligible projects include public health-related water supply construction.

The Georgia Fund is a state-funded program for water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure projects. The program has maximum flexibility and accessibility, and offers fast loan approvals. The Georgia Fund provides loans to local governments for projects such as water and sewer lines, treatment plants, pumping stations, wells, water storage tanks and water meters. Low-interest loans from this program are available up to \$3 million.

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Below are details of the loans approved today:

City of Boston

The city of Boston was approved for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan of \$331,408 to finance installing an automated meter reading system to read the city's water meters, which will aide in leak detection and provide more accurate measurement of water usage. Boston will pay 2 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$331,408, with principal forgiveness of up to \$99,422 if all loan funds are drawn. The city received a 1 percent interest rate reduction and the principal forgiveness because the project will help conserve water.

City of Cuthbert

The city of Cuthbert was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$699,421 to finance installing 7,060 linear feet of sewer main, a sewer lift station, 7,390 linear feet of water main, and 14 fire hydrants. Cuthbert will pay 3.44 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$699,421.

City of Donalsonville

The city of Donalsonville was approved for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan of \$307,000 to finance installing radio read equipment on all city water meters and purchasing hardware and software to read the automatic readers, which will aide in leak detection and provide more accurate measurement of water usage. Donalsonville will pay 2 percent interest on the 15-year loan of \$307,000. The city received a 1 percent interest rate reduction because the project will help conserve water.

Bryan County

Bryan County was approved for a Georgia Fund loan of \$1,497,533 to provide phase two financing for installing a 1,200-gallon per minute groundwater well, two sewer pump stations and 54,000 linear feet of force main. GEFA previously approved \$3,000,000 for the first phase of the project in August 2010. Bryan County will pay 3.44 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$1,497,533.

Webster County

Webster County was approved for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan of \$201,500 to finance an automated meter reading (AMR) system to read the county's water meters, and install new AMR compatible meters, which will aide in leak detection and provide more accurate measurement of water usage. Webster County will pay 2 percent interest on the 20-year loan of \$201,500, with principal forgiveness of up to \$60,450 if all loan funds are drawn. The county received a 1 percent interest rate reduction and the principal forgiveness because the project will help conserve water.

About the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (www.gefa.org)

The [Georgia Environmental Finance Authority](http://www.gefa.org) (GEFA) provides energy, land and water resources resulting in an improved quality of life for today and future generations. GEFA is the lead agency for state energy programs and is home to the Center of Innovation for Energy; directs the Georgia Land Conservation Program and maintains state-owned fuel storage tanks; and offers financing for reservoir and water supply, water quality, storm water and solid waste infrastructure. Since 1985, GEFA has approved financial commitments totaling more than \$3 billion to local governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations. For more information, visit www.gefa.org, [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#).