



## Walnut Gets a Grant For Saving Energy

The city's energy retrofit replaced four standard heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units with efficiency equipment and controls at City Hall, Senior Center, Teen Center and Maintenance Facility.

Recent retrofitting for energy efficient units at four city facilities has garnered the city a \$172,264 grant in federal funding through the California Energy Commission, authorities said today.

The city's energy retrofit replaced four standard heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units with efficiency equipment and controls at City Hall, the Senior Center, Teen Center and the city Maintenance Facility, according to officials.

Officials also worked to improve lighting, with 196 standard efficiency lamps switched to a variety of lamps with a brighter glow but using less electricity.

These were switched out -- and on -- at the senior and teen Centers and the maintenance yard.

According to energy officials, the city will now save \$28,790 in electricity costs and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 70 tons of carbon dioxide each year.

"Changing light bulbs to more energy-efficient fixtures is simple yet sensible," said California Energy Commission Chairman, Robert Weisenmiller.

"It is an easy step that pays off in the long run," Weisenmiller said.

Walnut -- the city has a population of 25,000 -- completed its retrofit in the middle of last year, according to Percy Della, information officer for the energy commission.

The funds came from a block grant from the U.S. Department of Energy under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

"The federal block grants administered by the Energy Commission are meant to assist small cities and counties achieve their energy efficiency goals," Della said.

"This is a trend that is going on throughout the country," Della told Patch, adding that energy costs are naturally one of the first line items a municipality looks to when seeking to reduce expenses.

As more cities upgrade their energy saving units, the state will funnel federal stimulus funds to them, Della said.

"There are a lot of California cities still upgrading," Della told Patch.

Federal stimulus funds to small cities and counties awarded under the ARRA's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants and administered by the Energy Commission have provided more than \$33 million to 201 eligible localities throughout California, Della said.

Read more here: <http://walnut.patch.com/articles/walnut-gets-a-grant-for-saving-eenergy>