

VVREE WEATHERIZATION SURVEY CONFIRMS SAVINGS OF MONEY AND ENERGY

by Richard Mahler, Newsletter Editor

Participants in the Viva Verde Residential Energy Efficiency (VVREE) project are saving an estimated \$106 annually in energy costs, on average, thanks to weatherization improvements carried out under GRIP's direction last winter. The four-person VVREE team evaluated and provided free upgrades to 62 low-income homes in the Luna County communities of Deming and Columbus. Besides saving money, water, and energy, the enhancements reduced such air pollutants as carbon dioxide that contribute negatively to climate change.

The project, funded largely by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's US-Mexico Border 2012 Program, involved the application of weather-stripping and caulking around leaky door and window frames, replacement of incandescent with compact fluorescent light bulbs, and installation of low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators. Toilet tanks were checked for water leaks and households received information on additional energy efficiency measures, including referrals where appropriate to other home weatherization and rehabilitation programs.

Partnered with GRIP in the VVREE program were the Community Action Agency of Southern New Mexico, the U.S. Department of Energy, Silver City/Grant County Office of Sustainability, and PNM. The latter, a statewide energy utility, was particularly helpful in providing funding to launch the project as well as its expansion to additional qualifying homes.



A.J. SANDOVAL CHECKS A DEMING TOILET FOR WATER LEAKS AS PART OF THE VIVA VERDE ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT (RICHARD MAHLER PHOTO)

VVREE BY THE NUMBERS:

62 - total number of homes weatherized (half mobile, half site-built)

37 - total homes in Deming, Luna County

25 - total homes in Columbus, Luna County

757 - incandescent light bulbs replaced with CFLs

71 - showerheads retrofitted to low-flow

136 - sink faucet aerators installed

22 - toilet leaks detected

3672 - ave. number of gallons of water saved annually per home (227,710 gallons total)

293 - ave. number of kilowatt hours saved per home annually (18,192 kWh total)

28.2 - ave. thermal units of natural gas saved per home annually (1774 therms total)

\$105.92 - ave. energy cost saved annually per home (\$6567.30 total)

1.2 tons - ave. amount of carbon dioxide production reduced per home annually

GRIP AND GCC ARE ON FACEBOOK



GRIP has an active presence on Facebook, where on-line visitors can easily obtain up-to-the-minute program information, post comments, learn about GRIP-sponsored events, see photos, participate in discussions, link to relevant websites, write messages on the Wall, and interact with Facebook members who are also friends of GRIP. You don't have to be a Facebook member or to log on in order to access GRIP's pages at www.facebook.com/pages/Gila-Resources-Information-Project/114973118542677. The Gila Conservation Coalition has established a similar presence on Facebook. Check it out at www.facebook.com/pages/Gila-Conservation-Coalition/135218196505549.



FRESHWATER AUTHORITY SANDRA POSTEL SPOKE TO AN ATTENTIVE SILCO THEATER AUDIENCE DURING LAST SEPTEMBER'S GILA RIVER FESTIVAL. MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE EIGHT ANNUAL FESTIVAL, WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 13-16 AT VARIOUS AREA LOCATIONS. (WALTER "SKI" SZYMANSKI PHOTO)