

**DWSRF ARRA Success Story:
ARRA Funds Energy Conservation Audits in South Dakota Drinking Water Plants**

The South Dakota Department of the Environment and Natural Resources, in partnership with consulting firm HDR Engineering, is using \$390,000 in ARRA Green Infrastructure funding to conduct a pilot program auditing nine rural drinking water systems throughout the state. By reducing the energy expenditure involved in the treatment of safe drinking water, the state hopes to reduce costs for consumers, boost the sustainability of their operations, and reduce their carbon footprint. Mike Coleman, project manager for HDR Engineering, reports that many water systems stand to reduce their energy usage by making simple, affordable modifications to facilities and practices. By minimizing pumping energy, reducing leaks, and taking advantage of off-peak energy rates, water systems managers stand to save 10-30% of the energy – and energy costs – they currently expend. A full report of the audits' findings will be made available to rural water system managers throughout the state of South Dakota this fall.