

THE TOWN OF TAOS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SOLAR PROJECT

STATE PROGRAM: New Mexico Environment Department

ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT: Town of Taos, New Mexico

ASSISTANCE AMOUNT: \$2M



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2016, the Town of Taos applied for funding through the New Mexico CWSRF for the construction of two solar projects at its wastewater treatment plant, which also serves the El Prado Water and Sanitation District and the El Valle de Los Ranchos Water and Sanitation District. The first project was a 1-million-watt photovoltaic system that generated enough power to offset most of the electric utility costs associated with the town's wastewater treatment plant. The second project was a net metered photovoltaic system with battery storage for the membrane bioreactor facility. Membrane bioreactors are a type of secondary wastewater treatment technology that combines filtration and biological treatment processes.

Completed in July 2022, the solar projects provide significant financial savings and cleaner energy for the multiple small communities served by the wastewater treatment facility. The total CWSRF assistance for this project was \$2 million that included \$1.2 million as principal forgiveness. The Town of Taos expects to save \$4.4 million in energy costs over the 25-year repayment period.

To read more about this case study, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/pisces-2022-compendium.pdf>.