



## Media Advisory

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ATLANTA – Business or property owners seeking low-interest financing for energy efficient and sustainable improvements for their downtown properties now have a new source of funding. The Green Communities Fund is a new revolving loan program offered by the Georgia Cities Foundation and is made possible through a grant from the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA).

As with the Foundation's downtown loan program, the Green Communities Fund program will target downtown buildings. These low interest loans will range in loan size from \$10,000 to \$250,000. With energy efficiency as the objective of the program, the loans will be used for energy efficient improvements to existing businesses, renovations of existing buildings, as well as for improvements to planned new construction. The interest rate on the loans will be below market (the Georgia Cities Foundation's downtown revolving loan fund is presently at 3 percent).

To apply for a Green Communities Fund Loan applicants must first complete a comprehensive energy audit of the existing building or an energy model for a new building. The audit will identify ways to improve the energy efficiency of the building and predict the best return on investment for each improvement. The audit, which is subsidized by the Georgia Cities Foundation, will identify a list of applicable improvements that may be financed through the Green Communities Fund loan program. The various energy savings investments may include, but are not limited to, the following list:

### Examples of Eligible Improvements:

Σ Insulation	Σ High Efficiency HVAC
Σ Lighting Retrofits	Σ Occupancy Sensors
Σ Reflective Roofing	Σ Solar Thermal Hot Water Heaters
Σ Weather Sealing	Σ Tankless Water Heaters
Σ Duct Sealing	

To be eligible for the Green Communities Fund loan the borrower must either meet a minimum of a 20 percent energy savings or have a combined return on investment for the work performed of 10 years or better. The energy audit will provide the ability to determine which combination of improvements will meet these standards.

For more information, contact Chris Higdon at 678-651-1018 or [chigdon@gmanet.com](mailto:chigdon@gmanet.com), or visit <http://www.georgiacitiesfoundation.org/GreenFund.aspx>.