



# City of Needles, California Request for Council Action

CITY COUNCIL       NPUA       BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
 Regular       Special

**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2020

**Title:** Electric Public Education Funds

**Background:** In 2018, the Board of Public Utilities requested staff to implement a \$50,000 public education fund split between the three utilities. The electric department has historically funded an annual sustainable energy solar camp held by the Needles Unified School District. Students were able to attend for ten days to learn and complete projects using examples of sustainable energy such as; wind, solar, water as well as an understanding of the electrical system within the City of Needles.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic nearly all schools shut down in person learning and transitioned to distant learning. The City did not fund a solar camp in 2020 and is not expected that full in person learning will resume until late 2021. The electric department is proposing to utilize those funds to assist residents with reducing their own electric consumption while providing Greenhouse Renewable credits to the City.

The NPUA's Free Shade Program will consist of providing residential customers with up to two free desert-adapted trees (Mesquite, Desert Willow, Rosewood) to plant in energy-saving locations around their homes. Shading homes helps reduce energy costs in the summer and also provides a Greenhouse Renewable credit for the City. The City has a set required goal to plant 100 trees a year over the next 10 years. Staff has contacted multiple nurseries to obtain estimates for 24-inch boxes of each tree species which is approximately \$125 each. If approved, staff will develop an outreach and application process. The goal is to distribute in March 2021.

The Board of Public Utilities approved the recommended action on December 1, 2020.

**Fiscal Impact:** \$16,667 is available in the FY21 electric budget for public education

**Recommended Action:** Authorize staff to develop and implement a NPUA Free Shade Program not to exceed \$14,000.

**Submitted By:** Rainie Torrance, Assistant Utility Manager

**City Management Review:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Approved: <input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled: <input type="checkbox"/>	Other: <input type="checkbox"/>
			Agenda Item: _____