

Homewise
Santa Fe, NM
TC Conserves!
Budget: \$13,188



[Homewise](#), a NeighborWorks Organization based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is promoting green lifestyles in the city's [Tierra Contenta](#) neighborhood by using its TC Conserves! program to distribute conservation kits to residents.

Each kit contains easy-to-install water and energy efficiency improvements including faucet aerators, water heater wraps and compact fluorescent bulbs. Kits also contain installation instructions and information on resource conservation. To date, Homewise has delivered kits to 251 households, more than 10 percent of the neighborhood.

Cece Derringer, Director of Resource Development and Communication for Homewise, says that “reducing the energy and water usage of our homes will reduce the long-term carrying costs of the home, thereby helping our homeowners achieve long-term financial security.”

By educating homeowners about simple ways to save resources, Derringer hopes Homewise can generate communitywide interest in conservation topics.

To help realize that vision, the organization has partnered with the City of Santa Fe to offer free low-flow toilets to all residents. So far, Homewise has installed 79 toilets that will save more than 6 million gallons of water in the next decade. The organization has also partnered with Northern New Mexico Sierra Club to distribute compact fluorescent light bulbs to more than 200 households.

Homewise is further incorporating conservation into the Tierra Contenta neighborhood with its new Vista Jemez subdivision, a mixed-income community of Energy Star-rated Homewise Homes. All Homewise Homes feature green elements such as low VOC paints and low-E windows that keep the houses as healthy and low cost as possible.

In 2008, Homewise Inc. [received the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Efficiency Leader Award](#) for helping nearly 600 New Mexico homeowners reduce water usage by an estimated 64 percent.