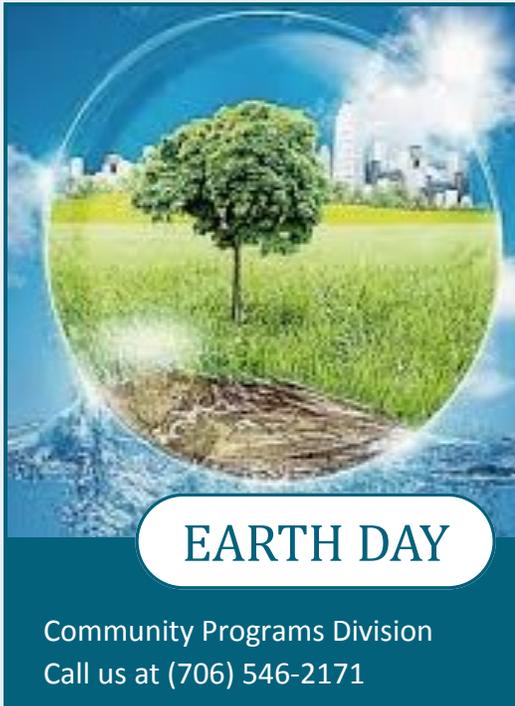




United States Department of Agriculture



April 22, 2015 – Today, the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Agency celebrates **Earth Day** by announcing a \$4.7 million grant and \$1.7 million loan for sewer improvements in the City of Lincolnton, Georgia. The improvements will abate water quality violations identified by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division while stabilizing critical infrastructure.

New or improved water infrastructure can be an influential factor in helping manufacturers and businesses determine where to locate or expand their operations.

Lincolnton’s two-phase project will first rehabilitate portions of the city’s sewer collection system and then make a number of modifications to expand treatment capacity of the Water Pollution Control Plant. This will address

violations such as periodic sewer overflows of ammonia and phosphorus above discharge limits and expand the system to accommodate future growth.

Funding is through Rural Development’s [Water and Environmental Program \(WEP\)](#). WEP helps small, financially distressed rural communities improve water and waste treatment facilities that serve local households and businesses. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes in rural areas and towns with fewer than 10,000 people may qualify for assistance.

For information or to apply for WEP in Georgia, call the Community Programs Division at (706) 546-2171.



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