

PIMA COUNTY

Smart Effluent Use Benefits the **Environment & Community**

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) owns and operates ten wastewater reclamation facilities in the Tucson area. Wastewater reclamation facilities produce effluent. Through an intergovernmental agreement, the City of Tucson owns 90% of that effluent and Pima County owns 10%.

Effluent that undergoes additional treatment is reclaimed water and is put into the City of Tucson's reclaimed water distribution system – a system that is separate from the drinking water system.

By using Tucson Water's reclaimed water system, Pima County uses some of its share of effluent to:

- irrigate county parks, turf facilities and other landscape vegetation
- provide reclaimed water for construction and dust control
- maintain man-made riparian habitats and wetlands

A portion of the county's effluent is discharged into the Santa Cruz River, where it recreates a riparian habitat that once naturally existed there. In addition to nurturing this unique habitat, this effluent that is discharged into the Santa Cruz River also helps to recharge the underground aquifer.

In this manner, some of the effluent discharged into the Santa Cruz River is "banked" for future use and serves to replenish the aquifer until it is recovered. This underground banking of water allows the entities that own the water to "withdraw" groundwater when it is needed.

Pima County has many ways to use its share of effluent and reclaimed water, both important pieces of our community's water portfolio.

CITY OF TUCSON

Keep Your Holidays Green

Did you know Americans generate 25% more garbage between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day? That means about 1 million additional tons of garbage taken to landfills each week during the holidays – that's a lot of garbage! With a little planning, we can reduce this amount by thinking green and using products that can be recycled. Here are some ideas:

- Shop local to reduce package waste, reduce your carbon footprint, and support local businesses.
- Use reusable shopping bags. If you use plastic bags, remember to recycle them at a grocery store or retailer.
- Send e-mail holiday cards. There are numerous online greeting card sites. If you want to send paper holiday greetings, choose cards that can be recycled so skip the glitter or metallic finish.
- Use gift bags that can be reused, or wrap your gifts in a reusable grocery bag. Buy wrapping paper that doesn't have a metallic finish or glitter so you can recycle it in your blue barrel.
- All cardboard boxes and cards can be recycled. If you have cardboard that won't fit in your blue barrel, take it to one of the 12 Neighborhood Recycling Centers.
- If you shop online, remember that you can recycle the cardboard in the blue barrel, recycle the air pack at a grocery store and take the Styrofoam™ peanuts to a packing store where it will be reused.
- Make sure to check out the new recycling list at **www.DoMoreBlue.com!** You can now recycle any plastic container as well as your steel, tin, or aluminum cans.
- Remember to TreeCycle! This year the program will run from December 26, 2012 through January 6, 2013.

Important! Due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, residents with Tuesday through Friday garbage and recycling collection will have their service delayed by one day. Your 2013 Holiday Collection Schedule is enclosed in this month's utility services bill, along with information about the TreeCycle Program.

Your utilities services statement includes fees for your water, wastewater, and environmental services.

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) – For more information about the regional wastewater system, call (520) 740-6500 or visit pima.gov/www.

Environmental Services (ES) – Learn about how ES is protecting our groundwater and the environment at tucsonaz.gov/esd and (520) 791-3171.