



NEWS RELEASE

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Tucson Water Wins Two Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence Awards

Tucson Water received two first-place Crescordia awards at Arizona Forward's 36th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards presented by the Salt River Project. The utility was recognized for its Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) project in the Energy and Technology Innovation category and its Conservation and Education Programs in the Environmental Stewardship category.

The AOP project was designed and constructed to address 1,4-dioxane removal, a groundwater contaminant that was not easily eliminated with existing technologies. It is the first process of its kind in Arizona to combine ultraviolet light with hydrogen peroxide to target 1,4-dioxane and first in the nation to use granular activated carbon specifically for excess hydrogen peroxide quenching. AOP operates in conjunction with the nearby Tucson International Airport Area Groundwater Remediation Project (TARP) to produce up to 8 million gallons of purified water a day.

Tucson Water's Conservation and Education Programs provide incentives for water conservation through residential and commercial rebate programs, offer a free water efficiency audit programs for residents and businesses, and educate students and teachers on efficient water use and conservation methods. Installation of high-efficiency water fixtures have helped conserve nearly 3,000 acre-feet of water and decreased water demand to 86 gallons per capita per day, the level of water use in 1985.

"It's an honor to be recognized for our efforts and a privilege to be part of a statewide group that shares the same goals: protect our natural resources and operate in harmony with Arizona's environment," said Tim Thomure, Tucson Water Director.

Crescordia, the award category, is a Greek term that means "to grow in harmony." In addition, Tucson Water's Clearwater Recharge and Recovery Project was a finalist in the Governor's Award for Arizona's Future.

Established in 1980, the Environmental Excellence Awards recognize exemplary contributions to the sustainability of communities statewide in eight broad-based categories. More than 100 nominations were received this year. The ceremony took place on September 10 in Phoenix.

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