



The Conserve to Enhance (C2E) Program links your efforts to conserve water with funding projects that protect and restore our local riparian environments. Find out how you can participate at [tucsonaz.gov/water/checkbox](http://tucsonaz.gov/water/checkbox). It's easy and convenient to support C2E programs: simply go to your monthly utility services statement and fill in a donation amount in the "Open Space/Riparian Contribution" box. Contributions are currently supporting the Atturbury Wash Restoration Project.

## *Be Water Smart* **Year Round** *Continued*

- **Assistance** such as a free home water efficiency audit from a Tucson Water Zanjero or monitoring suspected water waste.

There are many great benefits to being 'water smart': saving water, reducing expenses, lowering utility bills, and helping to create a more sustainable community.

Together, Tucson Water and our customers can be Water Smart!

— Alan Forrest, DIRECTOR, TUCSON WATER



For more information, materials in accessible formats, foreign language interpreters, and/or materials in a language other than English, contact Tucson Water at (520) 791-4331 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD.



# Your Water CONNECTION

## *Do Your Part. Be Water Smart* **Water Efficiency Year Round**

Water is our most important natural resource. Conserving water and using it efficiently in our desert community means that we will have a reliable water supply today and for future generations.

Tucson Water is asking customers to be water efficient every day, to "Do Your Part. Be Water Smart." The new WaterSmart Program groups all of Tucson Water's conservation

efforts under one umbrella and offers water wise information for each season. The WaterSmart Program includes:

- **Incentives and rebates for residential and commercial customers** for installing rainwater harvesting systems, high efficiency toilets, gray water systems and more. Business owners can audit water usage and develop a water management program with the WaterSmart Business program.
- **Educational programs** for students and teachers, free WaterSmart classes for homeowners, and training programs for green industry professionals.



*Pete and Tucson Water are working with customers to use water efficiently every day. "Do Your Part. Be Water Smart!"*

*Continued on Back*



## PIMA COUNTY

## ROMP Project Continues to Meet Milestones

The Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP) is a multi-faceted program that will improve the wastewater treatment process in Pima County. This \$660 million program will improve the quality of reclaimed water (treated sewage) generated at the Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF). The existing Roger Road WRF, which began operating in the early 1950s, is being replaced by a new state-of-the-art facility that will generate high quality reclaimed water. Reclaimed water is a growing water source for the community and will play a larger role in our community's water portfolio in coming years.

To date, three parts of the ROMP have been completed:

- A five-mile long sewer line which provides flow management flexibility between the Ina Road WRF and the existing Roger Road WRF is in operation. It will serve the new facility once it is in operation.
- A new state-of-the-art laboratory that performs water quality testing to ensure the WRFs comply with regulated water quality standards.
- An 8.3 million gallon a day expansion of the Ina Road WRF has been completed. Start up of this facility is under way. Once operational, it will meet new environmental standards the ROMP was designed to achieve.

The ROMP is the largest public works project in Pima County's history, and to date this program is on time and under budget. It was developed in response to increasingly stringent state and federal water quality standards.

**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](http://pima.gov/www).

## CITY OF TUCSON

## How to Safely Dispose of Sharps

Millions of people in the U.S. use needles, syringes, and lancets at home to care for their health. These are referred to as sharps. Used household sharps must be stored safely and disposed of properly to protect people and pets from injury and disease. Used sharps may hold blood infected with diseases that could potentially infect someone who accidentally gets cut by a used sharp.

Safe disposal of used sharps protects workers who pick up trash and handle recyclables at sorting plants, prevents the potential spread of disease should sharps be reused or shared, and protects our environment.

Follow these steps to safely dispose of sharps in Tucson:

- Put used sharps in a designated sharps container, a puncture-proof plastic container with a screw-on lid. (You can buy containers at some local drugstores.) A plastic bottle that cannot be broken or punctured, such as a bleach or laundry detergent bottle will work. Close the screw-on cap tightly. Write, "CONTAINS SHARPS," on the bottle.
- Put sharps into the container as soon as you use them. Keep the container closed and out of reach of children and pets.
- When the container is about three-quarters full, tightly tape the lid closed. Dispose of the container **in a trash can, NEVER in a Blue Barrel recycle bin.**

Please remember:

- Never flush used sharps down the toilet or drop them into a sewer drain.
- Don't clip, bend, or put the cap back on used sharps (to avoid breakage or accidental punctures).
- Never put *loose* used sharps in the trash or recycle bin.
- Don't put used sharps in containers that can be broken, punctured or leak: soda cans, milk cartons, glass bottles, or a coffee can with a plastic lid.

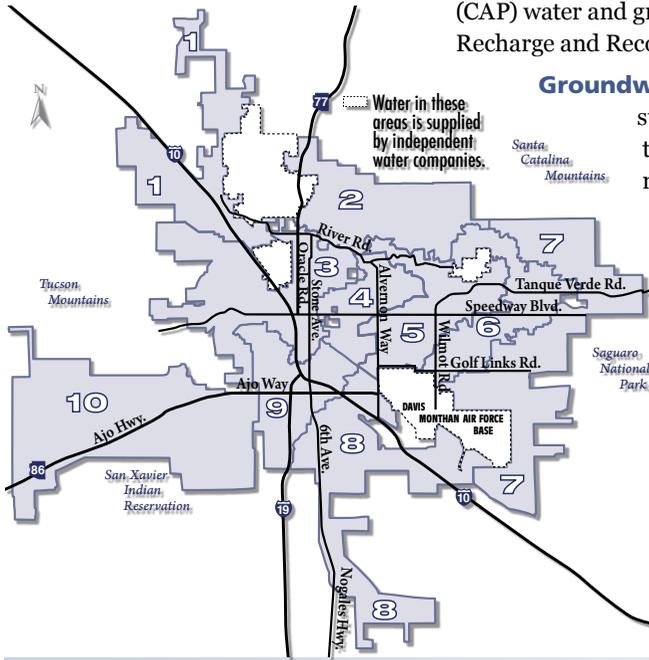
Environmental Services (ES) – Learn about how ES is protecting our groundwater and the environment at [tucsonaz.gov/esd](http://tucsonaz.gov/esd) and (520) 791-3171.

# Water quality report

August 2012



More than 20,000 individual water quality tests are performed annually on the drinking water derived from two sources: 1) groundwater and 2) the blend of recharged Central Arizona Project (CAP) water and groundwater from the Clearwater Recharge and Recovery Facility (CRRF).



**Groundwater Source Report** – Less than 50% of our total water supply comes from pumping native groundwater wells in the Tucson metropolitan area. These test results reflect the main distribution system, divided into 10 zones:

## test results

\*mg/L means milligrams per liter  
1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons  
SP = Sample Points

Zones	Sodium (mg/L)* 84 SP	Mineral Content (mg/L)* 246 SP	Hardness (mg/L)* 84 SP	pH Level (S.U.) 246 SP	Temperature (deg°F) 246 SP
1	65	475	224	7.9	89
2	59	440	203	7.9	88
3	56	412	182	8.0	88
4	52	377	181	7.9	87
5	45	310	137	7.8	86
6	51	382	183	7.8	86
7	46	347	169	7.9	88
8	50	372	182	7.8	89
9	52	461	220	7.8	88
10	52	381	152	7.9	88
<b>Avg</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>88</b>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has primary standards for levels of coliform bacteria and the disinfectant chlorine.

## coliform

EPA standards for positive samples

Positive results  
249 samples



## chlorine

EPA Standard  
Max. 4.0 mg/L

Actual Average  
249 samples 0.8 mg/L

Tucson Water target average  
0.8 to 1.2 mg/L

**Clearwater Report** – More than 50% of our total water supply is a blend of recharged CAP water and native groundwater from the CRRF. Using this recovered blended water means that we reduce groundwater pumping.

<b>Sodium</b>	<b>68 mg/L</b>	<b>(July 31, 2012)</b>
<b>Mineral Content</b>	<b>471.45 mg/L</b>	<b>(August 8 – Sept. 9, 2012 avg.)</b>
<b>Hardness</b>	<b>242 mg/L</b>	<b>(July 31, 2012)</b>
<b>pH</b>	<b>8.17 S.U.</b>	<b>(August 8 – Sept. 9, 2012 avg.)</b>
<b>Coliform Bacteria</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>(August 30, 2012)</b>
<b>Chlorine Level</b>	<b>0.99 mg/L</b>	<b>(August 8 – Sept. 9, 2012 avg.)</b>
<b>Temperature</b>	<b>82.62°F</b>	<b>(August 8 – Sept. 9, 2012 avg.)</b>

To obtain water quality information, go to [tucsonaz.gov/water](http://tucsonaz.gov/water) and click on the Water Quality tab for maps, FAQs, definitions, reports, online monitoring station results, and more. Or call (520) 791-4331 to schedule speakers, ask for an Annual Water Quality Report, or to request brochures.

## Helps Customers Save Money and Water

With the launch of the utility's new, year round WaterSmart Program, Tucson Water's Conservation Program Manager Daniel Ransom is part of the exciting changes to our community's water efficiency efforts. Case in point, the public's positive response to Tucson Water's new residential rainwater rebate program introduced this June.

"More than 600 people have attended a free rainwater harvesting workshop, a requirement to qualify for the rebate. We've already processed more than 40 applications for the rebates related to rainwater

harvesting equipment and labor," said Ransom. "Collecting and using rainwater on plants has great benefits."

Ransom is new to Tucson Water, joining the Public Information and Conservation Office (PICO) in May 2012. He brings 15 years of water efficiency program experience with the City of Santa Fe,

where he launched new rebates and helped to develop demonstration gardens featuring low water use plants and rainwater harvesting.

According to Ransom, the PICO team and the WaterSmart Program can also help residential and commercial customers use water more efficiently inside the home. For example, Tucson Water offers a rebate toward the purchase of a WaterSense-certified, high efficiency toilet (HET) that uses 1.3 gallons of water or less per flush. During the pilot program for the HET rebate, more than 10,000 HETs were installed in homes, business and multi-family units for a savings of 121.5 million gallons of water a year.

Watch for the WaterSmart Program to evolve in the coming months said Ransom. "Outdoor irrigation consumes 40% of overall water use so there's a big opportunity for more community education and incentives with irrigation systems and new technology, gray water systems and rainwater harvesting. There are more water harvesting demonstration sites under development and we're studying the impact of high efficiency clothes washers."



*Conservation Program Manager Daniel Ransom recently joined Tucson Water, bringing 15 years of experience creating and implementing effective water efficiency programs in a southwestern environment.*



The WaterSmart Program – educational programs, assistance and incentives – helps customers conserve water and use it efficiently every day.

- Free WaterSmart Classes
- Rainwater Harvesting Rebates
- Gray Water System Rebates
- High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebates
- HET Replacement for Low Income Homeowners
- Water Waste Enforcement
- The Zanjero Program
- Student and Teacher Education Programs
- SmartScape Training for Green Industry Professionals
- WaterSmart Business Certification Program

Free brochures, booklets, how-to videos, and more are available online and upon request

**CALL**



(520) 791-4331

**SCAN**



**CLICK**



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water/watersmart](http://tucsonaz.gov/water/watersmart)