

## PIMA COUNTY

## New Laboratory Complex Opens

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) must meet standards established by the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality. These standards regulate the quality of cleaned wastewater discharged into the Santa Cruz River.

To comply with CWA water quality standards, RWRD must perform hundreds of tests to assure that each step of the wastewater treatment process meets required standards day in and day out.

In calendar year 2011, more than 19,000 samples were delivered to RWRD's laboratories and more than 48,000 individual analyses were performed.

In December, RWRD laboratory personnel moved into a new state-of-the-art facility. This new facility replaced multiple, aging laboratory sites located in inadequate facilities with old technology. The new laboratory consolidates all laboratory activities into one location with high-tech equipment that allows employees to perform the required tests more easily and efficiently.

The new laboratory complex is a component of the Regional Optimization Master Plan (ROMP). The ROMP is a program that will upgrade and expand the Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) and will replace the existing Roger Road WRF.

Through the ROMP, these two major facilities will have the technology to meet new environmental standards and also the capacity to treat 82 million gallons of sewage each day.

The new laboratory will be part of a national network of laboratories that can provide emergency analysis in the event of a regional or national disaster.

## CITY OF TUCSON

## *Feasibility Study of* Solar Projects on Closed Landfills

City of Tucson Environmental Services (ES) was selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to receive technical assistance to evaluate the feasibility of building solar energy projects on closed landfills. Developing renewable energy resources has been a goal of the Mayor and City Council and ES. The City owns sixteen old landfills that comprise more than 1500 acres of land that cannot be easily redeveloped. Development on closed landfills poses some unique challenges such as land subsidence and landfill gas production as waste decomposes.

Developing solar energy projects using these former landfills that would otherwise sit vacant can



benefit the community and enable the City to work toward expansion of its sustainable energy portfolio.

The DOE and the EPA will provide technical assistance to the City to determine how to best build solar systems on the old landfills and how to obtain financing for future projects. No City monies will be spent on the project. It is anticipated that the study will be a year long process.

The closed landfills may be ideal sites for solar energy because they are shade-free and close to energy distribution lines. It would be a much-needed source of renewable energy and put the unused land back to beneficial use for the community.

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

**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.