

## PIMA COUNTY

## RWRD Earns Awards for Outstanding Performance

The Clean Water Act (CWA), passed in 1972, regulates wastewater treatment facilities that discharge effluent (treated wastewater) into rivers and other bodies of water.

Following the passage of the CWA, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) was established. NACWA is a nationally-recognized leader in environmental policy, water quality, and ecosystem protection issues.

To comply with Clean Water Act requirements, PCRWRD must meet standards mandated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Facilities that do not discharge into surface waters must meet different but similar standards. These facilities typically use evaporation or groundwater recharge to dispose of effluent, and are not eligible for NACWA awards.

To demonstrate its compliance with CWA surface water discharge requirements, RWRD conducts more than 3,000 tests each calendar year at those facilities that must meet the surface water discharge standards. NACWA grants awards to treatment facilities that have been exceptionally successful in meeting those standards.

NACWA Silver Awards recognize wastewater facilities with no more than five permit exceedances per calendar year. Being a recipient of a Silver Award is likened to taking a 3,000-question test and missing only one to five questions. Gold Awards are granted to wastewater treatment facilities that have had zero “wrong answers” on the 3000-question test. Finally, Platinum awards are granted to facilities that have had five consecutive years of earning Gold Awards.

In the 2009 calendar year, one PCRWRD facility achieved a Silver Award; three facilities achieved Gold Awards; and two facilities achieved Platinum Awards.

These awards could not have been earned if it were not for the hard work and dedication of PCRWRD’s staff.

**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).

## CITY OF TUCSON

## Safe Disposal of Used Sharps

Millions of people in the U.S. use ‘sharps’ – needles, syringes, and lancets – at home to care for their health. Because used sharps may hold blood infected with contagious diseases that could potentially infect someone who accidentally gets cut, proper storage and disposal of sharps is important for public safety and health.

Safe disposal of used sharps protects children, pets and sanitation workers who handle trash and recyclables. Here are Environmental Services’ easy guidelines for the safe disposal of used sharps:

1. Put used sharps in a sharps-only container. You can buy containers at some local drugstores. If you do not have a sharps container, use a plastic bottle that cannot be broken or punctured, such as a bleach bottle or laundry detergent bottle. Close the screw-on cap tightly. Write, “CONTAINS SHARPS” on the bottle.
2. Put sharps into your container as soon as you use them. Keep the container closed and away from children and pets.
3. When the container is about 3/4’s full, tightly secure the lid with tape and dispose of it in the trash – not in your Blue Barrel or with recyclables.

Remember:

- Don’t 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.
- Don’t put loose used sharps in the trash or recycle bin.
- Don’t put used sharps in soda cans, milk cartons, glass bottles, coffee cans, or containers that can be broken, punctured, or can leak.

Do your part to safely dispose of used sharps to protect our environment and others from potential illness and injury.

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