

## PIMA COUNTY

## Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department Participates in National Medication Disposal Event

Each year the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) participates in the **National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day**, a nationwide collaborative effort in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and state and local law enforcement agencies. Take-Back Day helps consumers to safely dispose of unused, unneeded and expired prescription medications, including controlled substances.

This year's event is scheduled for **Saturday, October 29 with collection sites throughout the U.S. – and Pima County.** Details on area locations for this year's National Take-Back Day can be found at [www.disposeamed.pima.gov](http://www.disposeamed.pima.gov) or by calling (520) 443-6040.

Clean out your medicine cabinets and bring unneeded and outdated over-the-counter prescription capsules or pills to a convenient drop-off location. Items such as liquids, intravenous solutions, injectables, needles, and illicit substances – such as marijuana or methamphetamines – are not accepted.

Two years ago PCRWRD got involved in the take-back efforts because some substances found in medications are not completely removed in the wastewater treatment process and could potentially end up in the environment. This program protects the public safety by decreasing the potential number of pollutants found in wastewater and the environment; and reduces the abuse of prescription medications and accidental poisonings from unused medicines.

The local Dispose-a-Med group, an outreach program comprised of more than 50 member agencies, was formed in 2009. The Dispose-a-Med program provides a safe and secure method of drug disposal throughout the year with monthly collection events at several locations throughout Pima County. Arizona law enforcement has collected more than 6,000 pounds of pills statewide.

## CITY OF TUCSON

## How to Win in the New Recycle Rewards Program

This month Environmental Services (ES) will kick off a new Recycle Rewards Program that will provide selected residents with a Do More Blue Card. The Do More Blue Card will offer discounts at local restaurants and eateries.

From September through December 2011, ES supervisors will be checking blue barrels in areas all across Tucson

# Do More Blue



to see how well residents are recycling. Winners will be given the Do More Blue Card, along with ES's thanks for recycling correctly.

Residents who do not receive a Do More Blue Card will be given a flyer letting them know that their recycling bin was checked and did not meet the standards. Some common items that shouldn't go into a blue recycling barrel include:

- ❶ Plastic film. For example, plastic bags, dry cleaning bags, and film packaging should be taken to your grocery store for recycling –not put in your blue barrel.
- ❷ Food or used food containers.
- ❸ Green waste such as palm fronds, trimmings, grass cutting, leaves, dirt and cactus.

Want to improve your recycling knowledge and, perhaps, your opportunity of obtaining a Do More Blue Card? Go to [www.tucsonrecycles.org](http://www.tucsonrecycles.org) to find a list of recyclables and fill your blue barrel to the brim.

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

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) – 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.