

## PIMA COUNTY

## Pharmaceuticals & Personal Care Products and Our Environment

Many of us take prescription or over-the-counter medications and supplements, and we may have pets who take medications. We may also use cosmetics, fragrances, lotions, laundry detergents and cleaning products on a regular basis. All these products are defined as pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs).

Compounds in PPCPs have been found in our nation's streams, wastewater effluent and some drinking water. PPCPs can enter the environment through a variety of sources: human and animal excretion, flushing unused medications down the toilet, sewer and septic discharges, landfill leaching, swimming or bathing.

There are no standards regulating PPCP concentrations. PPCP compounds were first brought to national attention in 2002. Since that time the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD) has played an active role in participating in and funding numerous PPCP research studies with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Geological Survey, Water Environment Federation and universities.

### Four Ways You Can Help to Keep PPCPs Out of Our Environment

- 1) Leave products in their original containers when disposing them in household trash.
- 2) Take unused medications in their original containers to Dispose-a-Med collection events held at convenient locations throughout the community. For a list of Dispose-a-Med collection events, click on <http://www.disposeamed.pima.gov/calendar.html> or call (520) 243-7800.
- 3) Mix unused medications with undesirable substances such as coffee grounds or kitty litter to prevent animals from ingesting them.
- 4) Avoid unnecessary ingredients, scented or antibacterial, when purchasing PPCPs. Purchase products with biodegradable ingredients such as vinegar, lemon juice or baking soda.

Play an active part in helping PCRWRD protect our community's health, safety and environment!

**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).

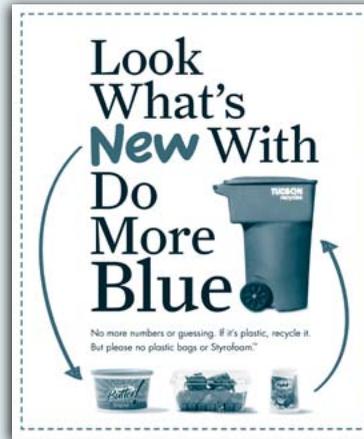
## CITY OF TUCSON

## Look What's New – with Do More Blue

Environmental Services is excited to announce changes to the curbside recycling program. We've been hearing from our customers that you'd like recycling to be easier,

convenient and more inclusive. Well, beginning this July, recycling will be all that and more!

A new, state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), opening in July 2012, will modernize and simplify recycling. Tucson residents and businesses will now be able to recycle a



wider variety of material than ever before – especially plastics. The new MRF, owned and operated by ReCommunity, is where City recycling collection trucks take your Blue Barrel recyclables. This new MRF is where everything is sorted before it's sold and shipped to the individual recyclers.

So starting in July with the MRF facilities, you can recycle all plastic containers – even butter tubs, yogurt containers and produce clamshells. Recycling is much easier with less sorting and confusion about what goes into the Blue Barrel.

Easier recycling and fuller Blue Barrels, means that Tucsonans can divert even more material from landfills, saving more natural resources and allowing your plastic water bottle to be reborn as carpet or polar fleece; your old newspaper as kitty litter or building insulation; or your plastic detergent bottle as a Frisbee or a stadium seat.

So take another look at what's new in recycling – watch for an updated list of recyclables in your July utility bill.

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.