

## 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.