

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE Today

APRIL 2003

WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • SOLID WASTE



The Material Recovery Facility.

Household Hazardous Waste— what should you do with it?

✓ Do it Yourself— with the RE-View™ Energy and Water Audit

Roseville Electric and the Environmental Utilities Department have joined forces to produce the RE-View™ Energy and Water Audit. Roseville water and electric customers can now look to the Internet for personalized conservation solutions. It's free, easy to do, and only takes about 20 minutes to complete. You simply answer questions about usage and receive a free comprehensive Home Resource Profile that pinpoints the best ways to save. To get started on your RE-View™ Energy and Water Audit, go to www.RosevilleElectric.org or www.roseville.ca.us/water—you'll be glad you did!

Roseville utility customers who do not have access to the Internet from home can gain free Internet access at any Roseville Library (you will need your utility account number for RE-View™ Energy and Water Audit access), or request the RE-View™ Energy and Water Audit mail-in version by calling 79-POWER (797-6937).

The United States Bureau of Reclamation provided grant funding to help the City of Roseville, Environmental Utilities Department, offset the cost to develop the water use section of the RE-View™ Energy and Water Audit.

Celebrate Earth Day!

Green Energy Earth Day
Celebration

Saturday
April 26, 2003

Civic Center Plaza
311 Vernon Street

10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

For more information—
call 79-POWER



How do I know if a product is considered hazardous?

Look for key words on the product label such as “danger,” “caution,” “warning,” “flammable,” or “poison” that signal the product requires special attention. These products present a risk to human life or the environment. Common items include pesticides, paint and varnish, paint and varnish removers, batteries of any kind, motor oil, and antifreeze.

I don't see pharmaceutical medicines and cosmetics listed. How should I dispose of those?

Medicine and cosmetics can be placed in your household trash. Please don't flush or pour medicine down the drain. Medications cause problems for our wastewater treatment plant and may interfere with the proper treatment of sewage.

Why can't I just throw hazardous waste in the trash, flush it, throw it into the street drain, or pour it down the sink?

Each of those methods can end up polluting our creeks, rivers, and even the water we drink. Although regular landfills are lined to prevent toxins from seeping into the soil, it is illegal to dispose of hazardous waste into our landfills. Putting hazardous waste into our sewer systems creates a serious problem for our wastewater treatment plants, as Roseville reuses treated water to irrigate golf courses and parks. And putting hazardous waste down the storm drain is about the same as pouring it straight into the creek.

So what can I do with hazardous waste?

If you can't use the entire product in the intended method, you can take it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Open to Placer County residents, it is located with the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at the corner of Athens Avenue and Fiddyment Road.

What about propane cylinders? What types and sizes does the facility accept?

Propane cylinders are now accepted at the MRF. All propane, even the small camp stove type, must be disposed of properly. The maximum cylinder size accepted is five gallons. Small helium cylinders will also be accepted.

After I change my oil, how do I dispose of the old motor oil?

It only takes one gallon of motor oil to pollute a million gallons of water. So, it's important to dispose of used motor oil properly by taking it to the MRF or one of Roseville's five convenient drop-off locations listed at www.wpwma.com, or call 1-800-CLEANUP.

When you take your oil to a drop-off site, you must:

1. Transport your oil in a plastic container with a screw top lid
2. Place filters in a zip-lock bag
3. Recycle up to a maximum of 5 gallons per person per visit

Please, don't throw filters into the trash, dump oil down the sewer or drain, or pour oil on the ground.

What about big items, like refrigerators and computer monitors?

For a nominal handling fee, the MRF now accepts larger items not easily disposed of, including refrigerators (\$27), other appliances (\$4), TVs (\$15 or \$21 depending on size), computer monitors (\$12), tires (\$2.50 for cars and small trucks), and other items.

Can leftover waste materials be obtained to help recycle it?

Yes, the MRF offers a household hazardous waste reuse program. On Saturdays, residential customers can pick up new or slightly used items such as paint, solvents and gardening supplies free of charge.

The Material Recovery Facility accepts the following items—

- Motor oil
- Antifreeze
- Brake and transmission fluid
- Household cleaners
- Gasoline, kerosene, other flammables
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Paint, oil based and latex
- Poisons
- Varnish, lacquer and shellac
- Solvents, degreasers and paint strippers
- Floor and furniture cleaners
- Small aerosol cans
- Vehicle batteries and small household batteries
- Pool chemicals
- Acids
- Propane cylinders

Items not accepted at the MRF include—

- Asbestos
- Ammunition and explosives
- Radioactive materials
- Medical wastes
- PCBs
- Compressed-gas cylinders larger than five gallons

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Visit the Western Placer
Waste Management Authority's
website at www.wpwma.com,
or call 916-645-5230, ext. 2013.



Folsom Lake Reservoir, Roseville's main supplier of water.

Water Supply Outlook

The City of Roseville's main water supply comes from Folsom Lake Reservoir. Statewide, December 2002 was California's seventh wettest December on record. A wet December through mid-January 2003 brought snow pack water content in the Sierra Nevada to well above average for the time of year. Although it is early in the water year and a lot can

happen between now and when rains cease, it is anticipated that full allocations of water will be available this year. Barring any unforeseen circumstance, extraordinary conservation measures should not be required this summer. In spite of the promising outlook, we should always conserve water when possible.

We will continue to operate a water waste program to combat irrigation gutter flooding and other blatant water waste. Starting in April, the Water Conservation Division will perform citywide patrols, work with new housing developments, investigate excessive water use, and act in response to customer complaints.

- To report water leaks or water waste, please call the Water Division at 774-5750 from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. After hours, weekends or holidays, call 1-800-263-1624.

Let the Irrigation Season Begin!

The cold of winter is behind us and the beauty of spring is now here! With spring comes warmer weather and the start of the irrigation season. It is important to remember when beginning the irrigation season that water needs are still relatively low due to mild temperatures and residual moisture in the soil.

Springtime irrigation tips—

- Remember to set your irrigation system controller to water every third day, making sure to increase or decrease the watering days and run times to adjust for soil moisture content, water run-off and weather conditions.
- Short but frequent run times work best, allowing the least amount of run-off.
- Before turning your irrigation system on, make sure all sprinkler heads are adjusted properly and all leaks and broken heads are repaired.
- When watering your lawn, look to make sure water doesn't run into the gutter or onto adjacent properties.
- To optimize irrigation water application, look for signs of run-off daily and make counteractive repairs and/or adjustments without delay!



Recycled water reservoir near Woodcreek Golf Course.

City to Increase Recycled Water Irrigation

Roseville boasts an exceptional recycled water irrigation program, keeping golf courses and parks green without drawing from our precious drinking water supply. When the irrigation program starts up again in April, the city will add Diamond Oaks Golf Course to the list of facilities served by the program. In addition, the city is selling recycled water to the newly opened Morgan Creek Golf Course just south of the city limits.

The addition of two new golf courses to the already existing parks and Woodcreek and Sun City Golf Courses, brings the total recycled water used for irrigation to about 1,900 acre-feet annually. An acre-foot is the amount of water it takes to cover one acre to a depth of one foot, or 325,851 gallons. Instead of sending approximately 600 million gallons of treated wastewater down the creek every year, the city uses it to offset our need for drinking water.

How to Prevent Pollution in the Garden

Many of us plant gardens to enjoy the benefits of fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables, but may be using harmful chemicals to control pests and weeds. These substances kill weeds and pests, but they also kill useful insects, harming the ecosystem and polluting our waterways. *Be an earth-friendly gardener by following these tips—*

- Use biological pesticides, oil sprays, and insecticide soaps to replace commercial insecticides. The Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides offers excellent alternative suggestions—visit their website at www.pesticide.org.
- Encourage natural predators such as birds, ladybugs, lacewings, toads and garter snakes by growing various flowering plants.
- Reduce pest numbers by placing manual traps and manually removing eggs, larvae, and cocoons.
- Eliminate pest attractors such as ivy, standing water, animal wastes, and rotting fruit.
- Eliminate snails by placing flat beer in shallow pans around the garden area.
- Choose natural plant species that require less water and fewer chemicals.
- When planting, avoid slopes and look for sunny areas with good drainage.
- Reduce erosion by planting along contour lines and cutting grass frequently to encourage deeper root growth.
- Avoid copper-sulfate root-killing products.
- Make natural fertilizer by composting. Call us at 774-5780 to get on the list to receive a free composting bin.
- Don't rinse chemical spills away! Soak them up with sawdust or kitty litter, and put the absorbent into a trash bag for disposal. For larger spills, take the absorbent to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility. The facility can be reached by calling 645-5230, ext. 2013.

Simple Solutions for Controlling Water Runoff



- Prevent runoff by adjusting the sprinklers to spray correctly, and/or adjusting the sprinkler timer to run several short intervals allowing the water to soak in.
- Never run your irrigation system longer than seven continuous minutes for turf or when the soil moisture content is high—it will often result in runoff.
- Split up run times when watering hardpan soils, sloped areas, and areas where adjacent properties are located on different levels.

TODAY is published for Roseville's residents by the Environmental Utilities Department of the City of Roseville. ©2003.

Comments and suggestions are welcome—please send to the attention of Lisa Brown.



2005 Hilltop Circle • Roseville, CA 95747
916-774-5750 • www.roseville.ca.us