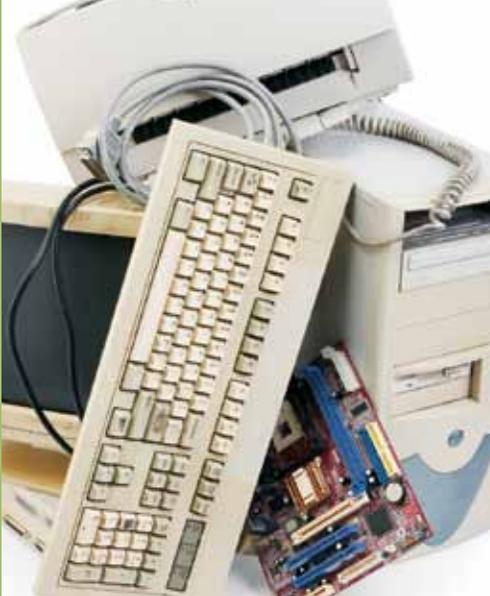


Product Stewardship: Sharing Responsibility for Recycling



Call it **product stewardship** or **extended producer responsibility (EPR)** which is a mandatory type of product stewardship, either term describes the idea of manufacturers and importers sharing responsibility for product waste. Canada, Japan, Australia, and all European countries already require producers to pay the cost of collecting, disposing or recycling challenging waste coupled with shared responsibilities across the product chain, and California is one of many states taking steps to do the same.

Ratepayer cost is a motivating reason behind such efforts. It's expensive to dispose of or recycle large items (such as carpet and mattresses), hazardous materials, and toxic waste. Those costs add up to higher utility expenses for the city and its customers. In 2009 alone, the city spent about \$65,000 to handle used batteries, fluorescent tubes, and motor oil. To help avert rate increases to cover such costs, the Roseville City Council adopted a resolution in July 2010 urging California lawmakers to pass legislation that requires producers to support recycling and provides incentives to design less toxic products.

To date, California has passed laws extending producer responsibility for products for mercury thermostats, recalled products, carpet, and paint. Other laws have reduced product toxicity, such as Proposition 65 that keeps lead, cadmium and other toxins out of jewelry and other consumer products. Legislation governing products such as mattresses, sharps and fluorescent tubes, are also under development or review.

- Visit calrecycle.ca.gov and calpsc.org to learn more about product stewardship.

FIGHT APHIDS the Natural Way

Aphids may be a gardener's toughest, most resilient enemy—and they seem to be especially fond of beautiful flowers and tasty fruits. This year, try a new approach. Instead of grabbing a spray can filled with chemicals that may be as toxic to you as they are to insects, try using a natural, nontoxic alternative. There are dozens on the market today that provide effective control for aphids and the ants that protect them as a food source.

- You can find a list of nontoxic products by brand name at OurWaterOurWorld.com.

In addition to aphid control, the site offers an extensive list of environmentally friendly products for dozens of common garden pests and diseases, as well as green-gardening tips and links to other helpful resources.





2011 Water-Quality Report: Another Plus for Roseville

There are plenty of reasons to feel good about living in Roseville—and water quality is high on that list.

Discover for yourself what's in your tap water and where it comes from by reading the 2011 Water Quality Report arriving in your mailbox this month. We're happy to tell you that, as in years past, your water meets or exceeds all state and federal quality standards. So drink up!

- If you haven't received your report or missed reading it, you can download a copy at roseville.ca.us/water or call 774-5750 to receive another copy by mail.

Take Advantage of Our Smart Timer Rebate

And Take the Guesswork Out of Watering

If you're tired of wondering whether you're watering too little or too much, a smart irrigation timer may be just the thing. Smart timers use local weather data to determine how much water grass and plants need, while giving you one less thing to worry about.

Best of all, our rebate program can reduce or even eliminate the cost of buying and installing a smart timer. The rebate provides \$150 for a four-station timer, with \$25 added for each additional station, up to \$200. The rebate also reimburses you up to \$50 to cover the cost of having the timer installed and programmed by a licensed landscape contractor.

If you own your home and have an automated irrigation system with a working controller and three or more active stations, applying for a rebate is easy:

- 1 Download a Residential Smart Timer Rebate Program application from www.roseville.ca.us/rebates. Once you've reviewed the terms and filled out the application, mail in your application.
- 2 Call 774-5761 to schedule a pre-installation site visit. We'll come out and evaluate your system before giving you the go ahead to buy, install, and program a qualified smart timer.
- 3 Not sure how to install and program your new timer? We'll reimburse up to \$50, so that you can hire a licensed landscape professional for installation and programming.
- 4 Call us for a follow-up inspection and provide us with itemized receipts for the timer and installation.
- 5 Once we've inspected and approved the installation, we'll finish processing your application and mail you a rebate check.

The process is simple and your smart timer makes watering with the weather a snap. Get started today by visiting www.roseville.ca.us/rebates.



**We're on
Facebook**

Find us on FACEBOOK and keep up on news and information about Roseville's utilities including water, wastewater and solid waste services.

www.facebook.com/rosevilleutilities

RATES REMINDER

You may notice a slight increase on your utility bill after July 1, 2012. That's when the second of two rate adjustments for solid waste disposal and water goes into effect. The 1.5 percent change in solid waste disposal rates will increase the cost of standard residential waste and green waste disposal from \$23.40 to \$24.10 a month. Water rates will increase by 8.5 percent, taking the typical household bill from \$28.22 to \$30.66. Sewer rates remain unchanged. While the city has worked hard to control expenses, higher costs and new regulations made the increases necessary. It's important to note that even with the increases, Roseville rates for water, sewer and solid waste remain among the lowest in the region.

\$ For more information about the utility rate adjustments, visit roseville.ca.us/eu.

FACT OR FICTION Is bottled water better than tap?



Not necessarily. The EPA estimates that about 25 percent of bottled water is simply tap water in a bottle. That may not be a bad thing, though, since tap water is more carefully monitored and quality standards are more stringent than they are for bottled water. That's because different agencies regulate tap and bottled water. California state agencies and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulate tap water quality, while the Food and Drug Administration oversees bottled water quality. California recently became one of the few states that requires bottled water companies to produce yearly water quality reports like municipal water suppliers provide. The new law (Senate Bill 220) took effect in 2009, making it possible for you to find out where your bottled water comes from and what it contains.

If you drink bottled water, you can easily compare the report on your brand to the city's 2011 Water Quality Report. When you do, we think you'll agree that there's really no reason to spend money on bottled water. After all, we got most of our water from snowmelt that flows down from the Sierra Nevada.

Remember, too, that it takes energy to produce and transport plastic bottles and the EPA estimates that only about 13 percent of plastic containers are recycled, with the rest heading to landfills. So this summer, consider filling a reusable bottle with Roseville tap water. It's a healthy alternative to pricey bottled water that also helps save energy and reduce waste.

Data sources:

http://water.epa.gov/learn/kids/drinkingwater/water_trivia_facts.cfm
and <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09610.pdf>

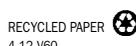


2005 Hilltop Circle
Roseville, CA 95747
916-774-5750

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Comments and suggestions are welcome—please send to the attention of Sean Bigley.

www.roseville.ca.us/eu



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