

WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

One Big Recycle Bin Campaign Begins

One of Roseville's best services also seems to be one of its best-kept secrets. Automatic recycling through a single-bin system is a bright idea that seems to have slipped into the shadows. Maybe it's because the city has grown considerably since the news-making



program began in 1995, but many people don't realize that the city's trash pickup goes directly to the Western Placer Waste Management Authority's (WPWMA) **Materials Recovery Facility** (MRF) for recycling. The facility takes in all garbage from Roseville and surrounding communities, sorting it first by hand and then by machine to recover recyclable materials. Instead of separating trash into bins at home and carrying them to the curb, residents simply place all trash in one bin—the city's trash pickup and the MRF take care of the rest.

Updating Roseville's Image

Easier recycling ... and better, too.

Simpler and more convenient than voluntary recycling programs, the one-bin system is also more effective than voluntary curbside recycling. The automatic system takes in trash from all customers, including businesses and residents who otherwise might not participate. It also eliminates the additional equipment and hauling costs needed to collect separate recycling bins. Because the MRF processes trash from a geographic region that stretches up to Lincoln and across to Colfax, many communities share the cost of maintaining and operating the state-of-the-art facility.

Being invisible has its drawbacks

Yet, for all its merit, many residents are not aware the MRF exists. It's not uncommon to hear complaints that Roseville does not offer recycling. Perhaps the MRF's effortless recycling works against its image. To give "Big Bin" a lift, the city is beginning a public awareness campaign, turning the spotlight back onto the program. You'll soon see "One Big Recycle Bin" around town on buses, bus shelters, television and other high-visibility spots.

So the next time a guest seems surprised that you don't sort your trash for recycling, you can simply smile and say, "The City of Roseville takes care of that for me."

Eco-Minded Banana Slugs Entertain **Roseville Students**

On March 14, 2006, more than 800 Roseville students got to have some fun while learning about protecting the environment, thanks to The Banana Slug String Band of Santa Cruz. For the third year in a row, the award-winning Banana Slugs brought messages about conserving resources through its lively, interactive blend of music, poetry, drama, and movement. Crowd pleasers included the band's zany songs, "I am a Tree" and "Spin Around the Sun."

The concert was made possible by Roseville Environmental Utilities and Roseville Electric.



Old Trash Bins Get Second Career in Composting

Roseville refuse bins get a great deal of use—first as all-in-one trash and recycling containers, and later as free composting bins. Though quite sturdy, eventually the 90-gallon trash containers wear out or break. Rather than retire the bins, we send them to our extreme makeover center and transform them into compost bins.



The compost bins are available free and delivered to Roseville residents, along with instructions on how to use the bins to create a nutrient-rich soil amendment for your lawn and garden. To receive a free composting bin, call 774-5780.

Meter Retrofit Program Update

At the halfway point of the 10-year plan, the Meter Retrofit Program continues to keep pace with its goal of providing water meters to all Roseville residents and businesses by 2011. The program was launched in 2001 to comply with federal, state and regional requirements aimed at conserving water by charging customers according to the amount of water they use. To meet the standards, the city



was required to add water meters to approximately 15,000 homes built before 1992. Metered rates are already in effect for homes built after 1992 and for homes included in earlier phases of the meter retrofit program.

Applause for our HEROEs

Each month, our Customer Service Recognition Committee selects one of our employees to receive the department's Honoring Excellence and Rewarding Outstanding Employees (HEROE) award.



Steve DeCroix

Steve DeCroix, plant and equipment mechanic at Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, earned the HEROE award in February for the ongoing support his design and fabrication skills provide. Steve has used his talents to solve a number of safety and

quality issues, including designing a new manhole cover that improves crew safety, and countless other innovations.



Julius Brumfield

The March award went to **Julius Brumfield**, plant and equipment mechanic at Pleasant Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant. Julius was nominated for repairing the potable H²0 well, which dramatically cut down the pump run times, saving elec-

tronic equipment and repair costs. His attention to detail and mechanical knowledge are a real asset.

• If there's an Environmental Utilities Department employee who has provided you with outstanding service, we'd love to hear about it—please call us at 774-5770.



Honor Students Team Up with Robot to Teach Kids

In April, members of Woodcreek High School's National Honor Society brought some fun-filled learning to students at Heritage Oaks and Spanger Elementary Schools. The high school students were joined by the Solid Waste Division's robot Curby. Together, they talked to students about Roseville's trash—what it is, where it goes, and how to generate less of it. The younger kids enjoyed a video filmed by the honor students and participated in interactive displays the high school students created on recycling, the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), household hazardous waste and green waste.

Curby, the trash can-styled robot, answered questions posed by the kids. Due to the limits of technology, the robot was assisted by city employees Sean Bigley, Vicki Hinton and Larry Winter, who operated Curby and gave him a voice.

Curby came to us in the fall of 2005 through a grant from the California Department of Conservation. He will be helping out at many of our upcoming events and is available for appearances in classrooms, meetings and other community events. If you're interested in engaging Curby's services, please call Sean Bigley at 774-5513.

Special thanks to the Woodcreek High Schools students for the wonderful job they did. Their creativity and enthusiasm really got across the conservation message.



Expanded Waste Facility Open for Business

In January, the Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA) opened a new public entrance and tipping facility. The new tipping facility was designed to reduce waiting times at the scale house and to improve overall safety by separating the public unloading area from the large equipment and other industrial operations at the facility.

Since the expansion, the facility has seen a decrease in time customers spend waiting in line on busy days. The WPWMA is continuing to make minor refinements to improve the functionality and ease of unloading for customers.

Construction of the facility was completed on schedule in late December for a total cost of \$2.69 million, coming in roughly \$200,000 under budget. The project was funded through WPWMA reserve accounts, without raising tipping fees or using outside financing. During the course of this project, creative means to save funds were employed, including crushing 10,000 tons of on-site concrete rubble into an aggregate base product for road construction, which resulted in a cost savings of about \$80,000.

For a WPWMA newsletter please visit www.WPWMA.com, and for general information call the WPWMA at 916-543-3960.



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