

# Conservation Corner

## Rinsing Smart Saves Water & Money In Commercial



### Kitchens

Rinse Smart to start. It's saving water, energy, and money in commercial kitchens all over the Tucson area. Tucson Water, in partnership with Southwest

Gas and the Arizona Department of Water Resources, is offering free, high pressure, low water use rinse spray valves to commercial kitchens in hotels, schools, hospitals, and restaurants.

Kitchens use the rinse sprayers to clean heavy debris off dirty dishes and utensils before they are washed. Rinsing dishes is one of the largest water uses in a commercial kitchen. The new sprayers use half the water of traditional sprayers but deliver it at higher pressure. Sixteen Tucson Originals restaurants tried out the rinse sprayers and dropped their rinse water usage by nearly 50%. They also saw a reduction in the amount of natural gas used to heat water for dish washing, an important step toward greater sustainability for our community.

Tucson Water's partnership with the Rinse Smart program was recommended by the Community Conservation Task Force. Collectively, the commercial kitchens that participate will reduce our community's water use by millions of gallons of water each year. Look for the Rinse Smart sticker at participating restaurants. If you want to serve up water and energy savings in your commercial kitchen by participating in the Rinse Smart program, contact the Tucson Water Conservation Team at 791-4331. More information about Rinse Smart and other conservation programs can be found at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water/conservation.htm](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/conservation.htm).

August 2008

[www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water)

# Your Water Connection

NEWS & TIPS FOR TUCSON WATER CUSTOMERS

## Water 101

### Conservation Education Students Studying Sustainability and More

From field trips and in-classroom projects to science fairs and activity books, Tucson Water's wide array of free water conservation education programs reach more than 30,000 area

students each year. The common theme among these programs is giving



students hands-on experience and teaching them about water conservation in fun and interesting ways. The common result is that, as adults, they are more likely to value water as a precious resource and to promote a sustainable environment.

*Water 101 continued inside*

Have a question for Water 101 or a suggestion for a topic? Call us at 791-4331 or e-mail to [TW\\_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us](mailto:TW_Web1@ci.tucson.az.us)

## Conservation Education Students Studying Sustainability and More

Water 101 *continued from front*

### Tucson Water's Classroom Programs

#### Da' Drops (Grades 1-3)

Da' Drops is a three-part water education program that focuses on the water cycle, water supply, and water conservation in the Tucson Basin. Students complete three classroom activities and then participate in a lively, hands-on, one-hour classroom presentation. Students receive a small cup to use when brushing their teeth that will help save water at home plus an activity booklet to reinforce the conservation lessons they learned.



#### Our Water, Our Future (Grades 4-5)

Our Water, Our Future teaches concepts about the water cycle, water supply, water quality, water use, and water conservation. It includes out-of-classroom lessons, an interactive one-hour classroom presentation and field trips. Students receive five-minute shower timers to encourage them to consciously conserve water.

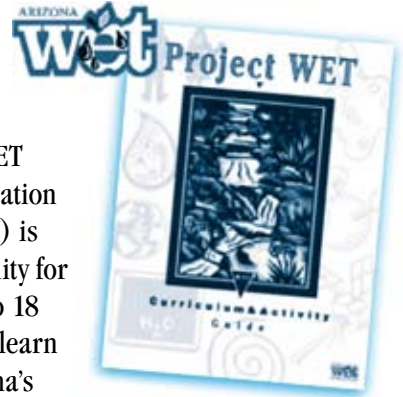
#### Tucson Toolkit (Grades 6-8)

The Tucson Toolkit is designed for middle school students and has been specially adapted to complement local school science classes. Tucson-area teachers can request free student workbooks, shower timers and flow rate bags. Students can also receive low-flow showerheads for their homes to continue the process of being aware of and responsible for their personal water use.



Want these programs at your school? Contact Tucson Water's Education Coordinator at 791-4331.

### Arizona Project WET



Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is an opportunity for students 5 to 18 years old to learn about Arizona's water resources with fun, easy-to-use materials and activities. Teachers and students have field-tested lesson plans and content that promote critical thinking and problem-solving skills around water topics that include watersheds, water quality, wetlands ecology, groundwater, and more. For information about Project WET, call Tucson Water at 791-4331 or the Project WET Coordinator, Kerry Schwartz, at (520) 792-9591 ext. 22.

### Tour Your Water System

Students of all ages can learn more about sustainability and water resources through free guided tours of the Clearwater Recharge Basins, Hayden-Udall Water Treatment Plant, the Reclaimed Water Treatment Plant, and a groundwater remediation project. Tours are also available to the Sweetwater Wetlands – a combination water treatment facility, urban wildlife habitat, and outdoor classroom. Guided tours must be scheduled in advance by contacting Tucson Water at (520) 791-4331.

# On the Water Front



Sustainability is an issue that can't be defined by city limits or county lines. It's a concern for everyone in the Tucson region – and, in a desert, water is the most important factor in any discussion of achieving sustainability.

That's why the City of Tucson and Pima County have begun a



joint City / County Water and Wastewater Study. It's a comprehensive, multi-year effort to define a sustainable water future for the Tucson region. The City owns and operates the largest water system in the region and the County owns and operates the primary wastewater system. The Study will later be expanded to include other municipalities and jurisdictions.

As part of the Study, the Tucson Mayor and Council and the Pima County Board of Supervisors appointed a joint Oversight Committee responsible for the first two phases of the Study – an educational phase followed by a public discussion phase to gather your input on values, policies and our environment.

The Committee's Educational Forums are covering a variety of topics related to water,

wastewater, growth, and the environment. The forums are open to the public as are all the meetings of the Committee. The Committee

typically meets at the Randolph Clubhouse, Copper Room, 600 South Alvernon Way. Meeting times, agendas, and forum topics are posted on the Study's website

at [www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com](http://www.tucsonpimawaterstudy.com) or you can call the Study Information Telephone Line at 884-9477. Previous forum presentations can also be viewed on the web site.

The issues are sometimes complex, but are important to all of us who call this region home and want to work for a sustainable future. I hope you will learn more about the Water and Wastewater Study and get involved in this vital public discussion.

*Karen Masbruch*

Acting Director, Tucson Water

## Clearwater Quality Report - Most recent water quality data (June 6 – July 6, 2008)

60	Sodium (mg/L) (June 20)
347.9	Mineral (mg/L) (June 6 – July 6 avg.)
180	Hardness (mg/L) (June 27)
7.97	pH (S.U.) (June 6 – July 6 avg.)
Neg	Coliform Bacteria (June 24)
0.88	Chlorine level (mg/L) (June 6 – July 6 avg.)
92.6	Temperature (deg F) (June 6 – July 6 avg.)

Visit the Tucson Water web site at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water)

Your Water Connection is produced by Tucson Water. To receive a copy, or to receive this information in Spanish, call 791-4331 or mail your request to:

Tucson Water, Customer Information, P.O. Box 27210,  
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210.

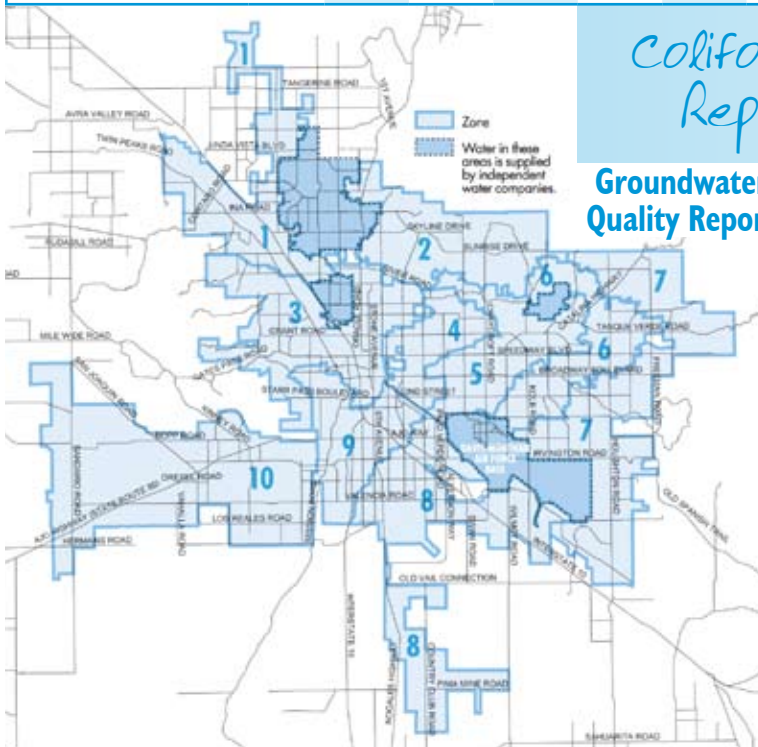
City of Tucson TTY number: 791-2639

Si usted desea este documento escrito en español, por favor llame al 791-4331.



# Groundwater Quality Report - June 2008

Water Quality Zone		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	System Wide
Sodium (mg/L)* 66 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	51 51-51	55 49-60	55 32-66	32 27-41	47 29-60	51 40-58	44 26-56	43 40-46	48 38-59	52 42-60	48 26-66
Mineral Content (mg/L)* 245 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	370 184-596	407 391-425	398 239-486	262 183-425	343 163-428	370 234-418	289 182-424	406 329-458	353 204-519	285 204-422	351 163-596
Hardness (mg/L)* 66 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	113 113-113	168 141-188	177 83-245	90 56-132	151 95-188	164 137-188	146 95-186	233 172-273	187 70-319	141 80-190	166 56-319
pH (S.U.) 245 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	7.7 7.3-8.0	8.0 7.9-8.1	7.9 7.6-8.1	7.9 7.7-8.0	7.8 7.2-8.1	7.9 7.3-8.0	7.8 7.7-8.1	7.5 7.1-7.7	7.8 7.4-8.0	7.9 7.8-8.1	7.8 7.1-8.1
Temperature (deg F) 245 SAMPLING POINTS	Average Range	84 80-87	87 85-91	86 80-94	86 80-94	86 79-92	86 81-89	86 80-92	85 81-90	87 81-92	87 83-90	86 79-94

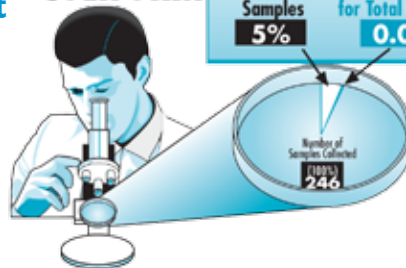


## Coliform Bacteria Testing Report - June 2008

### Groundwater Quality Report

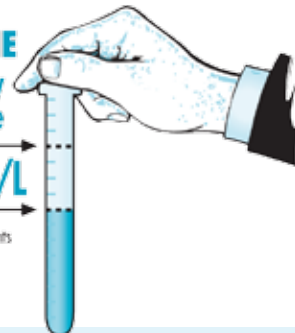
### COLIFORM

EPA Standard for Positive Samples **5%**  
Number of Positive Samples for Total Coliform **0.0%**



### CHLORINE Monthly Average

Target = 0.8 to 1.2 mg/L  
**0.8 mg/L**  
246 Sample Points



\* mg/L means milligrams per liter; 1 mg/L = 1 teaspoon in 1,302 gallons

\*\* 17.1 milligrams per liter (mg/L) = 1 grain per gallon; Therefore, the system-wide hardness average as reported for June 2008: 166 mg/L divided by 17.1 = 9.71 grains per gallon.

To give you a more accurate measurement of the water quality in your neighborhood, the Tucson Water service area has been divided into 10 zones based on differences in water pressure and water quality. For a detailed description of the zone boundaries, call 791-4331.

With the exception of chlorine and coliform bacteria, none of the water quality parameters reported here have U.S. Environmental Protection Agency primary standards set for them. For more information about primary and secondary water quality standards, visit Tucson Water's Web site at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water).