



City of Tempe Recycles

The City of Tempe Recycles has a long history of environmental stewardship through recycling. Tempe has one of the longest running and successful curbside recycling programs in the state. In February 1993, Tempe became the first municipality to offer city wide curbside recycling collection. Tempe opened the first Household Products Collection Center in the Phoenix metro area on Earth Day, 1999. In 2008, Tempe was the first city to accept rigid plastic (1-7) and shredded paper. Tempe's Education Recycling Information Center, ERIC is the most innovative education outreach program in the state.

As a good Eco-neighbor, Tempe has taken an active leadership role in local and state recycling organizations. For twenty years, Tempe has demonstrated its longstanding commitment and is a model city of recycling excellence.



ASUA Compost Cats

Name of Individual Accepting Award: Chester F. Phillips, Project Supervisor



ASUA Compost Cats is a student-run project that has taken on the challenge of keeping food scraps and green waste out of southern Arizona landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and transforming what had been considered waste into a community asset for soil fertility

Currently they service over 30 Tucson businesses in addition to multiple university departments. Compost Cats operates on a 5 acre plot at the San Xavier Co-op Farm, providing compost to the Tohono O'dham for crop production as well as to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona for their backyard gardening program.



At first glance South Mountain High's recycling program appears just like any other. Students help to take recyclables from small bins to a bigger bin; but in reality this is monumental. You see Ian's students developmental disabilities and each of their journeys to develop the skills for recycling is amazing.

A student with Autism unlocking the bin has been practicing holding a key between his fingers for months. A young lady pushing the recycling cart has practiced over and over again to get the cart through doorways because she is blind in one eye. The student using sign language to tell Ian that the bin next to the cafeteria needs to be emptied is the same student that, only three years ago, had no concept of language. His behavior and intellectual disabilities hindered his acquisition of ASL (American Sign Language) but look at him now! Recycling has given each of these students the opportunity to learn vocational skills that will make them marketable for jobs, and help them be a part of their community, after high school.

Recycling has also helped Ian's students find their place on campus. They may not have the dexterity to play an instrument in the band or score a touchdown on the field; but they are consistent and motivated in everything they set their mind to. The recycle bins are always full and someone needs to take care of them. They keep the program running by recycling almost every day. Each time they go out they overcome disabilities, tolerate the heat, and finish the job. They take pride in knowing that they are a part of it all, and it gives them an opportunity to interact with the other students on campus. Wheelchairs, deafness, Autism, intellectual disabilities, and traumatic brain injury are always with them; but it is their school, their community and their world. It is just a part of their responsibility, as it is anyone else's, and nothing is going to stand in their way!



In 2005, Queen Creek was one of the fastest growing communities in the country. The growing population wanted curbside trash and recycling services. However, by the time the program was finally ready for Council consideration in 2010, the Great Recession had greatly affected much of the budget for public outreach. While it was a perfect time to begin providing these much needed services, public outreach dollars were non-existent.

Due to these budget constraints, the Town needed to integrate innovative thinking when developing the new solid waste and recycling services program. The Town entered into numerous partnerships, which opened up opportunities not typically available to small communities, such as the Do More Blue public outreach campaign (thanks to Tucson!), recycling education in the classroom, hazardous waste disposal, and the nation's first curbside (directly in the blue cart) textile recycling collection program. This cutting-edge pilot program collected more than 27,000 lbs of material, donated \$2,700 to the Boys & Girls Club, and invited national media coverage. The Town's pilot program was so successful that United & Phoenix Fibers is engineering an even stronger textile bag and the Town will be including textile curbside recycling as part of its regular program in the very near future.



Raytheon Missile Systems

Raytheon Missile Systems (RMS), headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, has a long history of waste reduction and recycling excellence. The program is modeled after the 3Rs- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Since 2007, waste-to-landfill has been reduced by 42.5% and the landfill diversion rate has increased from 50% to 75%.

Reducing waste generated is the first priority for the 3R program. Recent examples of waste reduction at RMS include the elimination of canned air use (currently in process) in favor of a rechargeable canless air system and the elimination of dozens of cleaning chemicals, and the packaging they come in, by switching to an ozonated water cleaning system.

Reuse of materials is the second priority for the 3R program. One example of reuse at RMS is the 7S program. Through the 7S program, labs, offices, and other workspaces are cleaned out periodically to collect supplies and other materials that are no longer needed. These items are sorted for reuse internally before purchasing new supplies, or donated to local schools and non-profit organizations. In 2012, RMS launched the Office Supply Reuse Tool, which is an internal website that allows employees to search for and request surplus office supplies for reuse. Employees can also list items they want to share or post want-ads for items they need. Since the website was launched, employees have shared and reused almost 2 tons of office supplies. In addition, over 47 tons of supplies have been donated locally since 2011.

Recycling is the third component of the 3R program. RMS recycles or otherwise diverts dozens of commodities, including paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum, scrap metal, wood, miscellaneous office supplies, Tyvek, bubble/shrink wrap, packing peanuts, Styrofoam, PE foam, ink/toner, batteries, green waste, compost, writing utensils, and electronics, among other

items. RMS creates partnerships with a number of different organizations and service providers to divert materials from the landfill. For example, ink and toner is sent to Cartridges for Kids which supports school programs and alkaline batteries are sent to Canada for recycling in order to keep them out of the landfill.

An industrial-sized baler was purchased in 2010 which allowed the recycling program to transition from a business cost to a revenue generator. Over 200 tons of material were baled and sold for recycling in 2012. The revenue generated from recyclable commodities is put into a Sustainability Fund and reinvested in recycling or other sustainability-related projects and programs. For example, in 2012 additional recycle racks were purchased to collect a number of items for recycling (all batteries, ink/toner, media, writing utensils) throughout the facility. Additional bicycles for the RayCycle bike share program were also purchased.

The 3R program is always growing. Recent additions to the program were a kitchen-scrap composting program (pre-consumed organic waste) and an expanded foam recycling program that includes PE foam and baled Styrofoam. RMS also encourages eco-friendly procurement and has programs in place to ensure all dining utensils in cafes are biodegradable and all copy paper is made out of a minimum 30% PCW.

RMS promotes and leverages employee involvement and volunteerism to advance the 3R program. The cornerstone for employee involvement is the RMS Recycle Area Coordinators (RACs) network. This network is comprised of more than 200 volunteers who take an active role in promoting the 3R program and ensuring heightened levels of awareness in the areas in which they work. RACs post informational fliers, promote program initiatives in staff meetings, assess their work areas for adequate recycling collection and other recycling opportunities, and promote desirable behaviors that support sustainability efforts. In addition to RACs, employees who are members of Environmental, Health and Safety Building Councils also serve as active ambassadors for the 3R and other sustainability programs. There are also specific events that employees volunteer their time to support such as the Household Hazardous Waste event that is held each year. This is a great opportunity for employees to responsibly dispose of HHW, electronics for recycling, and household donations.



The Reimagine Phoenix program is taking the city of Phoenix on a new road of sustainability, including all things associated with solid waste diversion. New goals, recycling pay as you throw, green organics collection as well as other diversion programs at transfer stations in conjunction with the existing Phoenix Recycles blue barrel recycling program are providing a fundamental change to solid waste collection in the city of Phoenix.



Tucson Clean & Beautiful has been a fixture in Southern Arizona for over 25 years and a relentless advocate for recycling and reuse.

TCB started the first Telephone Directory Recycling Program in the nation, 1988-1991. They Received three national recycling awards from Keep America Beautiful and the National Recycling Coalition

Started the first recycling /reuse directory-1986 which evolved into Recycling Information phone line.

Served on the City's First Household Hazardous Waste Committee that developed site location and co chaired public collection outreach. 1989

Started white paper recycling in city and county government and the U of A,

Created the first Recycling Committee and Metal Recycling Fair.

Started the first Public Electronic Collection Program 2008 to-2011 providing materials for jobs for Las Chicas Bravas, Womens Coalition in Fronteras , Mexico.

Other TCB accomplishments include

Developing an educational program for grades 1-5, E Pluribus Recycles reaching thousands of children annually.

Prior to curbside recycling, coordinated 9 volunteer Out Reach Recycling location drop off stations 1993-1997.

Partnering with the City of Tucson, they provide Master Recyclers training program twice a year.

They are presently working with U of A Students for Sustainability and others to implement an anti bottled water education campaign on campus, created by student interns.

They continue to demonstrate a strong community leadership role in recycling, waste reduction and reuse throughout Pima County and Southern Arizona.



The Bra Recyclers is a textile recycling company that specializes in recycling bras and other lingerie products. Their mission is to reduce the amount of textiles that unnecessarily go to landfills by recycling and reusing textiles to re-shape our environment and the lives of people around the world.

The Bra Recyclers currently donates bras to over 70 non profit organizations in the US and Africa. They have recruited Bra Recycling Ambassadors from around the world, Canada, Malaysia, Hong Kong, South Africa, Poland, Greece and Puerto Rico. They help educate communities about the importance of recycling and the impact it can have on their community.