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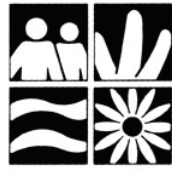
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**TUCSON
CLEAN &
BEAUTIFUL INC.**

Our Third Decade of Community Partnership!

VOLUME 8—ISSUE 2

NEWS!

SUMMER 2006

Electric Meters Spinning Backwards? Invest in Solar Power For a Clean Environment and Lower Electric Bills

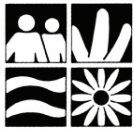
Electric bill running a little high? You may want to invest your time, money, and roof space into a smart long-term investment for your home: solar power. While the average cost of a 1 kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system was \$8,000 in 2003, the Tucson Electric Power (TEP) Sunshare program has significantly lowered the cost to around \$4,000 when purchased through TEP, not including installation. This may seem like a costly up-front investment, but considering that the average

residential electric customer in Tucson uses about 10,000 kiloWatt-hours (kWh) per year of electricity (833 kWh per month), a typical home solar energy system will save each customer about 200 kWh or about \$20 per month on their electric bill.

With state and federal tax credits totaling up to \$3,000 to offset a portion of the price of purchase and installation, adding solar panels can prove to be both environmentally and monetarily savvy. Another incentive, aside from the upfront discounts TEP customers receive include the ability



to store up credit for the excess power produced by your solar panels. For example, when you use more electricity than your PV system can produce at a given moment, additional power flows to your home from TEP's system. However, when your system is producing excess electricity, this power is sent back out to the electrical grid for others to use. This in turn spins your electric (See *Solar Power*, Page 3)



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**TCB's quarterly newsletter is now
available online! Check it out at
www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb**

Adopt-a-Park Volunteer Program Keeps On Growing!

The successful Adopt-a-Park and Public Areas Program has continued to grow during the past year, with 11 volunteer groups completing the adoption process for their selected parks. Other groups have just begun their evaluation period or are pending adoption of their selected site. Thank you to these dedicated volunteer groups and our partners at the City of Tucson and Pima County for helping to keep our community's public areas clean and safer for everyone to use! Learn more at www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/tcbaap.htm



Blake Foundation Adoption at Reid Park 1/11/06

Adopted Site

- Menlo Park
- Picture Rocks District Park
- Estevan Park
- Arthur Pack Park
- A. Smith Sculpture Garden
- Silverlake Park
- Reid Park (NW Corner)
- Charles Ford Lakeside Park
- Tahoe Park
- Rillito River Park, La Cañada-Oracle
- Rillito River Park, Campbell-Country Club

Adoptive Group

- Arizona Schools for the Deaf and Blind
- Cub Scout Pack # 218
- Pima Partnership High School
- Moms Club of Tucson, Northwest
- Betty Ord Friends & Family
- South Park Neighborhood Association
- The Blake Foundation
- Santa Rita High School - VICE Squad
- Catalina Vista Neighborhood Association
- Tucson Lobos Wheelchair Basketball Team
- Rillito Basin Coalition

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- Libby Howell, Secretary
- Richard Block, Treasurer
- Scott Harper, Past President

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- Eldora North, Administrative Assistant
- B.J. Cordova, Director of Development & Community Outreach
- Doug Koppinger, Coordinator, Trees for Tucson
- Luisa Ikner, Coordinator, Recycling Education
- Vonda Lee Ashberger, Office Assistant

Mission Statement:

The purpose of Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Inc., a non-profit organization, is to preserve and improve our environment, conserve natural resources, and enhance the quality of life in the City of Tucson and eastern Pima County. These goals will be achieved through initiating educational and participatory programs implemented with broad-citizen, multi-culture support.

Tucson Clean & Beautiful News is the official publication of Tucson Clean & Beautiful Inc., a non-profit 501(c)3 environmental education organization.

P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210
 Office (520) 791-3109, Fax (520) 622-7112
 Tucson Recycles Info Line, (520) 791-5000
tcb@tucsonaz.gov
<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb>

Summer 2006 Newsletter design by U of A students Aida Arik and Altaira Citron, in cooperation with TCB Staff

Your Membership Counts! TCB Programs and volunteer partnerships have an immense impact on the environment and quality of life across the Tucson/Pima County metropolitan area. These programs are strengthened by TCB membership donations from Tucson area individuals and businesses. Visit the TCB website at <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb> to view an updated list of available member discounts. **Already a member? Give a gift membership to family and friends!**

Please check membership category: [] Junior (12 and under) - \$5 [] Student & Senior - \$15 [] Individual - \$20 [] Family - \$30 [] Business - \$100 to \$500 [] Corporate - \$500 to \$2000 [] Benefactor - \$2000 or more [] This is a gift membership (please fill in gift recipient information below and attach your information) [] My company matches donations (please include matching gift form)

Membership Dues: \$ _____ Name: _____
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 Total Donation: \$ _____

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"Just in the first six weeks, the system had already reduced our energy usage... Combined with the fact that we are trying to be more conscious about our energy use inside the home, we seem to be saving about \$25 per month."

Solar Power⁹, continued from p. 1

dial backwards, temporarily crediting you for the excess power until you need to use it again.

Joan Lionetti, TCB Executive Director, maintains a home that is nearly 100% solar powered. TCB staff member B.J. Cordova also had a 1 kW PV system installed through the SunShare program. SunShare makes the installation of home PV systems and the use of solar power more practical and affordable for consumers.

"It is fun to see the meter actually spin backwards at certain times of the day when we are not using very much electricity. Just in the first six weeks, the system had already reduced our energy usage by 360 kWh. Combined with the fact that we are trying to be more conscious about energy use inside the home, we seem to be saving about \$25 per month." says Cordova.

Not enough money for solar panels at home? The Tucson Electric Power GreenWatts program also enables solar enthusiasts to invest directly in creating "green" power, designed to help reduce air pollution emissions and dependence on fossil fuels, while improving our planet's health. For each "GreenWatt" that its customers adopt, TEP is able to create 20 kWh per month of electricity from renewable energy resources. Supporters can opt to pay an extra \$2 per month to adopt a GreenWatt and \$1.50 for each one thereafter. TEP provides a guarantee that all funds collected from the program go toward constructing, maintaining and operating renewable energy projects, including new solar electric generating facilities in Arizona. These facilities reduce the need to burn coal, gas or other fuels to produce power, providing benefits to the Arizona environment. Solar energy supporters also enjoy the pride and satisfaction of joining fellow corporations and individuals that are taking action to

improve the environment.

One of the world's largest PV solar generation sites was built by TEP, with the help of GreenWatts donations. Located in Springerville, Arizona, this site now generates enough electricity to power over 750 homes, making it one of the world's most productive PV sites.

For now, solar power remains more expensive than providing power generated from traditional fuels, but investing in solar energy today will help make the technology more affordable and widely used in years to come. Supporting projects like GreenWatts allows for the building of larger, more cost-effective projects. Let's all do our part to help the environment by making solar energy affordable for everyone.

More information about Alternative Energy equipment and installation providers is available on TCB's website: www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb/rd



Deadly Southwest Drought

Save Your Desert Trees for Only Pennies A Day!

You may have noticed the lack of wildflowers this year. Cacti are also looking more yellow than green. Trees are also having difficulty surviving the worst drought Arizona has had in over a century. Southern Arizona has been categorized by the National Weather Service as being in an 'exceptional,' drought, its highest category. The rainfall deficit is so severe that Tucson Water began its water-wise "Beat the Peak" campaign two weeks early.

Tucsonans may still turn on their faucets and drink water coming from hundreds of feet underground and hundreds of miles away, but trees don't have it so easy—they need help through this drought! All Tucsonans know the benefits of the protective shade provided by trees in Tucson—how many of us opt for the parking space under the tree in lieu of one that's closer? Unfortunately, recent discussions about the effects of drought on water supplies and possible government restrictions on water use may discourage people

from watering plants just when they most need it. Although the monsoons may bring decent rains they often are in short bursts and don't soak in more than a few inches. Slow cool rains in winter are the most important to trees. So after the monsoon season ends (around early September) your trees will then need to be watered regularly until winter rains arrive.

After examining the costs of letting desert trees die, you'll be glad to give your trees some water. Five gallons of water costs less than one cent in Tucson! For the cost of having a dead tree removed—hundreds of dollars for a large tree—you could adequately water a tree for decades. Your trees will more than make up for the price of caring for them by increasing the property value and aesthetics of your home, while providing energy-saving shade. Having a dead tree in your yard is not only an eyesore, but also increases fire danger in our desert

surroundings. While it is good to reduce water use to save money, appropriately placed shade trees can reduce energy and water use, and also save even more money!

Watering desert trees doesn't have to be a waste of water if you plan for efficiency. Watering your trees and plants before or after the hottest part of the day prevents evaporative losses. Rainwater harvesting is also an effective and free means of watering your landscape. Diverting rainwater from roof drains or even catching rainwater in containers is a tremendous help for your trees and saves a great deal of water. Remember: water conservation does not mean to stop watering your trees—conserve in and around your home, but don't let your trees die.

Also, don't hesitate to plant new trees to replace those that die and to add to our valuable urban forest. With Tucson getting hotter from global warming and the urban heat island caused by buildings, pavement, and barren landscapes, water use for plants is justified and essential to the continued livability of our community!



TIPS TO HELP CONSERVE WATER:

- Plant native plants in your landscape that are adapted to desert climates.
- Check for leaks—you could reduce your water use by up to 10%.
- Pool covers can reduce water used for a pool by nearly 30%.

Cross-Border Partnership Continues to Reduce Waste and Litter



In May of 2005, the City of Tucson Mayor and Council approved the donation of used garbage containers to the City of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico. Only 40% of households in Agua Prieta had garbage containers at the time, and over the past year, the City of Tucson has provided over 2,000 used trash barrels—typically, missing the lid and wheels—to be reused for Agua Prieta's litter cleanup and neighborhood waste management initiatives. By continuing to donate these containers, the City of Tucson

builds positive cross-border goodwill, avoids disposal costs, as well as saves valuable space and extending the usable life of the Los Reales Landfill.

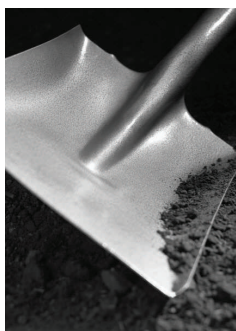
TCB coordinates with the City of Tucson Environmental Services to provide more barrels for pickup when the city of Agua Prieta requests them and is pleased to continue facilitating this partnership to provide up to 14,000 used trash containers over the next several years. Special thanks to the City's Environmental Services container maintenance staff who make this effort possible! ◇

Recycling Directory Updated, Bilingual Support goal of 4% increase in resident recycling

TCB's popular *Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Directory for Tucson & Pima County* is now available online 24 hours a day, and in Spanish! First compiled by TCB volunteers two decades ago, thanks to a grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, an updated and bilingual version of this directory will soon be available at Tucson-Pima County Public Library locations, City Council offices and other community

sites. The City recently set a goal of increasing residents' recycling rate by 4%, and the directory is one of many efforts supporting that goal. Please call the TCB Recycling Info Line at 791-5000 for more information or to request a print copy of the *Reduce-Reuse-Recycle Directory* or its Spanish version, *El Directorio para Reducir, Reusar y Reciclar*. Go paperless! Visit the Directory on the TCB website at <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/tcb>. ◇

ZOO Doo: Manure Put to Good Use!



What do these four seemingly different City of Tucson departments and divisions—Environmental Services, Reid Park Zoo, Streets & Traffic Maintenance and Fleet Services—have in common? To reduce waste while saving money and the environment, TCB helped to establish the "Zoo Doo" pilot composting project, a multi-department demonstration effort currently underway at the Los Reales Landfill.

Each year, Tucson Parks & Recreation disposes of tons of manure created by animals that call the Reid Park Zoo home. This manure has traditionally been sent to Environmental Services' only landfill, Los Reales, for disposal. At the same time, the city's Transportation Department, Streets & Traffic Maintenance Division, spends a great deal of time, effort and money keeping Tucson street landscape clean and well-maintained, creating tons of green yard waste also disposed of at Los Reales. Part of the General Services Department, Fleet Services is busy maintaining the City's automotive fleet. Rags and towels used to clean up oil for many years have been disposed of as hazardous waste through an outside contractor costing the city thousands of dollars per ton.

Animal manure can be used as a nitrogen-rich fertilizer, soil

builder and erosion reducer. It is often better to add materials that are more carbon-rich such as yard trimmings in order to allow this combination to decompose naturally for several weeks, creating compost and improving the quality of the material. Adding used cleaning rags and towels to the mix, beneficial bacteria from the manure can quickly break down the small amounts of oil in the rags while creating a nutrient-rich compost material in combination with the tree trimmings. The composting process provides safe, economical, and beneficial disposal and reuse options for all of these materials—a win for each department and for the environment too!

Although the Zoo Doo composting project is in its preliminary stages, TCB is proud to support and encourage this inter-departmental collaboration, with strong hopes for the program's expansion and incorporation into the city's long-term strategy for reducing landfill waste and disposal expenses. The general curator of the Tucson Zoo, Scott Barton, expresses the excitement over the Zoo's participation in the project. "Our goal is to make the zoo as green as possible," says Barton. To date, it is estimated that over 100 cubic yards weighing approximately 20 tons have been diverted from the landfill to eventual reuse as compost through this pilot project. ◇

92.9 The Mountain Studio C Compilation CD to Benefit Tucson Clean & Beautiful

Support TCB and the Community Food Bank through the purchase of a limited edition "live" music compilation featuring Howie Day, Bob Schneider, Carbon Leaf, Ozomatli, and more—all recorded live at various locations around Tucson. The CDs are on sale for a limited time at all area Coffee X Change locations, at the radio station, 3202 N. Oracle Rd., or on The Mountain website, www.929themountain.com. CDs are \$10 each, with net proceeds benefiting TCB and our friends at the Food Bank. These unique "Live from Studio C" CDs make great gifts for friends and family—get your copies today! ◇

