



GOING GREEN

in Turlock...

COMMUNITY EVENTS

3RD ANNUAL WALNUT ENERGY FAIRE

On October 6th, the City of Turlock participated in the 3rd Annual Walnut Energy Faire in collaboration with the Walnut Elementary Education Center. The school event helped raise awareness for energy conservation and to demonstrate the collective power of simple, energy saving actions. Many local vendors participated, including Turlock Irrigation District (TID), Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), BLAST Bus Line Service of Turlock and Golden State Energy Efficiency Rating Service. The Solar Oven Competition was hot, the Solar Water Fountain was cool, and the Recycle Race was awesome!



High-Efficiency Toilet and Clothes Washer Rebate Program



In 2009, the City of Turlock joined the California Urban Water Conservation Council, and it pledged to promote water efficiency programs. With that in mind, the City Council recently approved a rebate program, offering residents a credit on their utility bills if they install high efficiency (HE) clothes washers and toilets. There is a \$100 rebate for the purchase of a HE clothes washer and \$75 rebate for new (1.28 gallons or less) HE toilets. A household may receive up to three rebates and the appliances must be installed within 30 days of purchase. Also, free curbside pick-up of the old appliances with Turlock Scavenger. Here is a great way to conserve water and make some extra cash!

A Water Wise Garden in Turlock

Recently, local resident, Maria Gomez contacted the City of Turlock for a free water audit from the Municipal Services Department. She was already a conscious, even vigilant, water consumer and wanted to know how to improve her efficiency, as well as keep her water bill low. Her household of two adults is well below the average water usage in California (20,000 gallons per month for a family of four). In addition to having high efficiency appliances and faucets, Ms. Gomez has created beautifully landscaped gardens in the front and back of her home. The native Chilean explained how her parents taught her the importance of water conservation.

They also taught her the joys of gardening. Maria had the water-hungry grass in the backyard removed and selected hearty, drought moderate plants, mostly from a Mediterranean palate. Some plants included salvias, lantanas, perennial herbs, bunch grasses and a large grape arbor for a focal point in this "artist's garden". Her garden has two irrigation clocks which she monitors carefully. Maria even put in a "dry creek", acting as a French drain on the damp side of her house. If you are interested in low maintenance, low water plants, contact your local Master Gardeners office or your local plant nursery.



For more information on the High Efficiency Appliance rebates, call (209) 668-5590

DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, RE-MEMBER THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING!

CONSERVATION TIP FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON:

Recycle what you replace. If you get a new cell phone or computer, pass the old one on to someone who can use it. Some retailers, such as the big-box office-supply stores, participate in cell phone recycling programs to keep mercury, cadmium and lead out of landfills.



FIELD TRIP: TURLOCK SCAVENGER COMPANY

Toni Cordell, Staff Services Technician at the City of Turlock recently took Turlock Scavenger interns, Amy Howser and John Goldsmith, out for a site visit at the Turlock Scavenger Company. Assistant Manager Art Machado provided a thorough tour of this locally owned institution. Turlock Scavenger has been helping the region manage waste and recycle commodities since the 1930's and has been working with the City of Turlock, under a franchise contract, since

1947. Turlock Scavenger has been a leader in the state in its ability to curb the amount of refuse that goes into landfill through better resource distribution. With the passage of The Integrated Waste Management Act (IWMA) of 1989 each city and county in California were required to divert 25% of its waste stream by 1995, 50% by 2000. Turlock is currently at 73% waste diversion, surpassing 2020 requirements! Also, Turlock Scavenger may have been the first company in

California to implement the three-cart curbside system, starting in 1991. For more information about this local resource, visit their website at www.turlockscavenger.com.



Pictured from L to R: John Goldsmith, Art Machado, Toni Cordell



To add or remove your name from our mailing list or for questions and/or comments— send email to TCordell@turlock.ca.us



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