

Get to Know *Your* County

Celebrate National County Government Week
“Greening Our Future”
May 3-9, 2009

Show Your Pride in Cochise County!

Cochise County plays an important role in protecting and enhancing the health, welfare and safety of residents. Included in this great responsibility is wise use of our natural resources. Please join us in celebrating National County Government Week and learn more about how Cochise County is **“Greening Our Future.”**

Recycling in *Cochise County*

Cochise County citizens can participate in the greening effort by bringing their recyclables free of charge to one of 16 sites throughout the County. At those sites individuals may recycle newspapers, magazines, office paper, cardboard, aluminum and tin cans, #1 and #2 plastics, computers and other electronic equipment along with used tires, auto batteries, and scrap metal to include appliances as well as residential household hazardous waste.

geo·tourism (n): *Tourism that sustains or enhances the geographical character of a place – its environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage, and the well-being of its residents.*

Cochise County is nestled into the southeastern corner of Arizona and encompasses 6,250 square miles of mountains, yucca-speckled grasslands, and unique cities and towns. The incorporated areas of Sierra Vista, Huachuca City, Benson, Bisbee, Tombstone, Douglas and Willcox are in close proximity to each other. The wide-open plains and mountains provide a cool respite from searing summer heat in other parts of the state. The elevations of the towns offer mild summers and temperate winters and the landscape responds to the climate with beauty and abundance. Cochise County attracts over 300,000 visitors per year who come to experience the region's rich cultural history and myriad outdoor recreation opportunities.

Looking for things to do? There are a wealth of places to visit and activities to keep you busy: Kartchner Caverns State Park, bird watching, vineyards, golfing, Tombstone and the historic Old West, astronomy, the artsy community of Bisbee or exploring ghost towns. You can also go hiking in southeastern Arizona's gorgeous landscapes, Chiricahua National Monument, Cochise Stronghold and the Huachuca Mountains.

Facts from Cochise County

How many tons of recyclables were collected in 2008?

382.82 tons of cardboard
25 tons of phone books
35 tons of newspaper
15 tons of computers and related equipment
577.70 tons of scrap metal to include appliances
20 tons of auto batteries
620 tons of used tires

How many "green fleet" vehicles are owned and maintained by the County?

2 Toyota Prius Hybrids
50 vehicles run on E85 Ethanol Flex Fuel

How many quarts of motor oil are recycled yearly?

Over 8,000 quarts of motor oil are recycled annually

How many taxpayer dollars were saved last year through energy-efficiency initiatives?

\$141,000 were saved due to energy-efficiency initiatives

How many old light bulbs were replaced with energy-efficient light bulbs last year?

Over 3,000 bulbs and electronic ballasts have been replaced

How much water was saved last year in Cochise County facilities?

6 acre feet of water were saved last year in County facilities.

How many toilet rebates have been issued?

600 toilet rebates

How many acre feet of water are saved annually due to the Toilet Rebate Program?

30 acre feet of water saved annually from Toilet Rebates

How many children or senior citizens were served last year by the County?

The Health Department's Nursing Division gave 14,260 vaccinations to 4,726 children, an average of 3 per child
The Health Department's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program served 4,250 clients

How many miles of roads and highways are maintained by the County?

There are 1,450 miles of maintained by the County, which is comparable to a trip by car from Sierra Vista to Jefferson City, Missouri.

How many calls were responded to last year by the Sheriff's Office?

22,248 call were responded to by the Sheriff's Office

How many inmates were housed in the County jail last year?

4,539 inmates were housed in the County jail

How many building permits were reviewed and approved last year?

1,344 permits were issued

How many building inspections were conducted last year?

10,448 inspections were done last year including violations and zonings
807 plans were reviewed last year

How many Board, Special Board, Special Districts and Work Sessions were there last year?

A total of 128 meetings were held by the Board of Supervisors in 2008



Green, Greener & Greenest: Use of Paperless Technology

Getting Information to the Public Via the Internet

On April 1, 2009 Cochise County celebrated its one-year anniversary of our new internet site: www.cochise.az.gov. The newly re-designed website offers much more to the public. The front page is kept 'fresh' with weekly updates to items under the headings of "News Flash" and "What's Happening" and the website has been re-organized and updated to provide more comprehensive information, forms and useful links.

So how successful has our first year with the new website been? Over the year there were more than 290,000 visits with more than one-million pages viewed. The average time spent on our site was more than three minutes. Viewers were worldwide, hailing from more than 130 countries and territories!

As we continue to expand and improve our website's usefulness for public use, we expect to see these numbers increase. Future plans include full utilization of the front page Calendar, more forms available, etc.

Green Building in *Cochise County*

Cochise County has adopted a Green Building Program to offer builders, developers, and purchasers a hospitable and flexible environment for innovation in methods to achieve design and construction while creating minimal negative impacts on the environment maximizing efficient use of energy and material resources.

The Cochise County Residential Green Building Program creates *voluntary* standards against which both sellers and buyers may measure the validity of "green building" assertions as they apply in Cochise County. While not all projects will necessarily achieve full certification under these voluntary standards, the standards nevertheless offer a way for sellers to effectively describe those features of new construction which are done in keeping with the goal of minimizing environmental impact. Consumers can take advantage of these certification standards as they make decisions regarding features desired and negotiate a purchase.

The program is intended to encourage continuous revision to these voluntary standards as developers and builders submit new best practices for inclusion, and new technologies evolve towards mainstream building practices.

Background

Prior to the middle of the last century, the pace and pattern of development in Cochise County, as well as much of the Western United States, was determined by three elements: the abundance of natural resources, availability of water, and proximity to a safe, traversable transportation route to the settlement area. Some areas of the County with an abundance of valuable resources could prosper by exporting surplus commodities to other regions, but areas that needed to import scarce but necessary resources were faced with significant obstacles to community development. A delicate balance of growth was maintained by climate, and the availability of water, food, housing, and employment.

In the last seventy years, the abundance of cheap fossil fuels, imported materials, and the completion of cross-continental transportation networks completely reshaped the way we site and build our structures. These shifts also made it possible for human beings to inhabit regions—such as the Arizona Desert—year round in relative comfort. These advances were not without negative effects. Most modern houses require large inputs of fossil fuels for heating and cooling interior spaces and for providing lighting, refrigeration, cooking, water heating, and maintaining remote power for electronic equipment. Over 39% of the total energy used in the United States is used for the operation of buildings, and much more is used in ways indirectly related to building location and design—especially traveling to and from the buildings we construct.

Building impacts are not just limited to energy use. Significant water consumption occurs in our homes through bathing, clothes washing, dishwashing, cooking, private swimming pools, and irrigation of private yards and gardens. Much of our water resources are wasted from unattended leaks, inefficient appliances, poor design in hot water delivery systems, and wasteful practices by users. Outdoor water use for landscaping in our region is estimated to account for 60-70% of overall water use in homes. By harvesting rainwater and incorporating native, drought-tolerant plantings outside residences, lush vegetation can be supported using only the rain that falls naturally on most sites.

The Cochise County Residential Green Building Program is a voluntary system provided to guide builders, developers and owners in the design and construction of energy efficient, water-conserving, healthful homes.

Home builders desiring to certify a new home should read the Green Building Program credit criteria and checklist to assess the design of their project. For more information, contact the Cochise County Planning and Zoning Department at 520-432-9240 or visit their website at www.cochise.az.gov.

Emergency Services in *Cochise County*

Our office gets asked one question quite often, "what exactly does Emergency Services do?"

The easiest answer is to provide our mission statement:

"The mission of the Cochise County Office of Emergency Services is to provide community-wide education, planning, coordination and continuity of government for the people of Cochise County in order to protect lives, property and the environment in all types of major emergencies and disasters, both natural and manmade. This shall be accomplished by providing community-wide planning efforts in the areas of mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. "

But what does all that *really* mean to Cochise County citizens?

One of the most basic and fundamental responsibilities of government is to provide for the safety and welfare of its citizens before, during and after major emergencies and disasters. This office is dedicated to making sure the preparation for, response to and recovery from a disaster in Cochise County is well thought out, planned for as much as possible in advance, and allows for an expedited return to normal operations.

Cochise County Emergency Services works with first responders, like Police & Fire Departments, as well as area hospitals, schools, and other local, state and federal agencies to meet our mission of providing community-wide planning for disasters. We assist in organizing training and exercise events throughout the County to prepare the first responder community for a major disaster or emergency. In addition, our office coordinates disaster response or crisis management activities (ordering evacuations, opening public shelters, implementing special needs programs, etc.), and during an incident we act as a liaison between other County assets, neighboring jurisdictions, state and federal resources, to make them available to the effected community.

So how are you a part of all this?

Everyone needs to play a part in getting a community prepared for a disaster, and recovering from one. Be prepared! Make plans with your families, for your pets and for your homes; so that you are prepared if a disaster strikes in your community. There is plenty of information and help available for you to form your own disaster plans. If you would like more information, please contact our office at 520-432-9200.



In support of the environment, Cochise County's "Greening Effort", and in memory of County employees who have passed away, in 2009 we initiated a program to plant a tree in their honor. A tree does so much more than show our respect and appreciation for our former employees; it is a symbol of life and a benefit to our environment. This tree will continue to benefit future generations in many ways.

On Monday, April 13, 2009 a Chinese Elm Tree was planted and a ceremony took place in honor of Chuck Tuzil, Solid Waste Inspector for Cochise County.

Keeping it Green, Even at Night

The **Cochise County Light Pollution Code** was adopted in 1983, with a major update in 2005. The purpose of the Light Pollution Code is to preserve the dark night sky for astronomers and for the general public, while achieving safe, efficient lighting practices. For more information, contact the Cochise County Planning and Zoning Department at 520-432-9240 or visit their website at www.cochise.az.gov.

Water Policy in *Cochise County*

The Cochise County Water Conservation Office coordinates County programs dealing with the management of our local water resources. The Water Conservation Coordinator does research on water management practices in jurisdictions throughout the United States and advises the Board of Supervisors on water matters. The coordinator also implements County policies with regard to water, particularly within the Sierra Vista Sub-watershed of the Upper San Pedro River. The coordinator also plans and implements specific water conservation programs within the County such as the Desert Hospitality Water Conservation Program, plumbing rebate and retrofit programs and various public education programs.

The initial focus of some Water Conservation Office programs is on the Sierra Vista Sub-watershed of the San Pedro River. This is due to the economic importance of Fort Huachuca to Cochise County and the environmental challenges facing Fort Huachuca and the local communities. Additionally, some of the funding for County programs originates with Fort Huachuca or the Upper San Pedro Partnership and is designated for programs within the Sierra Vista Sub-watershed. While the scope of the position is countywide, funding constraints, at least initially, limit the expansion of some conservation programs beyond the Sierra Vista Sub-watershed. Cochise County along with other governments in the Sierra Vista Sub-watershed of the San Pedro River have committed to the meeting the needs of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and the people living and working here. Cochise County has committed to assist Fort Huachuca meet its water mitigation requirements which include responsibility for the water use of 54% of the residents of the sub-watershed. Cochise County wishes to reduce or eliminate the threat to our local economy should operations on Fort Huachuca be reduced due to environmental concerns.

Cochise County Toilet Rebate Program

Effective Date: July 26, 2004

Cochise County is a member of the Upper San Pedro Partnership (USPP), a group of 21 federal, state and local private and government agencies and political bodies with a commitment to meeting the needs of people and the river.

Eligibility

All Cochise County residents within the Sierra Vista Sub-watershed of the San Pedro River, living in an owner-occupied residence built pre-1994. This would include Huachuca City, Tombstone, Bisbee and unincorporated areas such as Hereford Palominas, Naco and parts of Whetstone. Generally, it is the area south of Highway 82 and between the Huachuca and Mule Mountains.

Note: The City of Sierra Vista has a separate successful Toilet Rebate Program. Call 458-5775 if you live within the Sierra Vista city limits.

Participant's Responsibilities

Reserve Your Rebate First!

The program is subject to available funds. In order to guarantee payment, Cochise County residents are required to reserve rebate amounts prior to the purchase and installation of toilets to guarantee payment.

Contact the Cochise County Water Conservation Department – Toilet Rebate by email at water@cochise.az.gov to reserve your rebate.

Rebate reservations are guaranteed for 60 days. A completed application along with an original unaltered sales receipt or service invoice, and verification of delivery and destruction at the Solid Waste Transfer Stations located in Sierra Vista, Tombstone, Bisbee or the Western Regional Landfill, must be received during the 60 day time period to guarantee the rebate amount.