

Conservation News



*Environmental News and Information from the
City of Melbourne Public Works & Utilities Department*

New video focuses on water conservation

A 20-minute shower using an older model eight-gallon per minute showerhead uses about 160 gallons of water. A recommended five-minute shower using a water conserving showerhead uses just 12.5 gallons.

This is one of the many water facts presented in a new 12-minute video entitled "Conserving Water on the Space Coast."

The video is a project of the Brevard Water Resources Conservation Team that includes the Cities of Melbourne, Cocoa, Palm Bay and Titusville, along with Brevard County Water Resources. Funding assistance was provided by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Geared toward the upper elementary school grades and middle school level, the team also developed a worksheet and crossword puzzle to be presented in conjunction



The cover of the new video, above, shows scenes from the 12-minute, fast-paced program.

with the video.

While it will be used in school

programs, it will also be provided to libraries throughout the county and will be presented on Space Coast Government TV.

"We are really happy with how the video turned out," said Jennifer Wilster, environmental community outreach manager for the City of Melbourne. "While it gives good water conservation information that could apply anywhere, it also uses a unique Brevard County approach."

Wilster is available to present the video to local schools or groups, or if you would like to borrow a copy of

the video, please call Wilster at 674-5761

Bottled water may not be a good choice after all

A compelling story was presented in a the September/October 2003 issue of "E: The Environmental Magazine."

The theme of the article, by Brian Howard, is that despite the hype, bottled water is neither cleaner nor greener than tap water.

The 14-page article provides in-depth information on how water produced by public water treatment plants is subject to

much more rigorous testing and regulations than is bottled water. It goes on to provide information about the sources of bottled water that many times come from municipal water supplies.

Finally, the article delves into the pollution problem the plastic bottles are creating.

"By far the cheapest — and often the safest — option is to drink water from the tap. It's also

the most environmentally friendly," the Friends of the Earth says. "We might as well drink water from the tap and save all the waste."

Pat Franklin, executive director of the Container Recycling Institute, says nine out of 10 plastic bottles end up as garbage or litter — at a rate of 30 million per day.

You can read the story on the magazine's web site at www.emagazine.com



The City of
Melbourne

City of Melbourne
Public Works & Utilities Dept./
Environmental Community
Outreach Division
2881 Harper Road
Melbourne, FL 32904
Phone: (321) 674-5761
Fax: (321) 674-5765
E-Mail: utilitiesconserve@melbourneflorida.org
Web: www.melbourneflorida.org

Conservation through Education



With the start of the new school year, the City's Conser-

vation through Education program is back in full swing. Focusing on the primary levels, information is given on water facts and the importance of conservation. The program uses interactive activities, games and videos.

If you have children in school and would like this program presented, please call your school's administrator, or contact Jennifer Wilster, environmental community outreach (ECO) manager, at 674-5761 or by e-mail at jwtlster@melbourneflorida.org.

Schools in which the program has been provided or scheduled during this school year so far include **Ocean Breeze Elementary, Meadowlane Elementary, Sea Park Elementary, Surfside Elementary, Roy Allen Elementary, Holland Elementary, Sabal Elementary** and **Holy Name of Jesus School**.

In addition, if your homeowner's group or civic association would like a water conservation program please contact the ECO Manager at the phone number or e-mail address above.

Lawn watering rules in place year around

As we leave summer and head into fall, which is typically a much drier season, residents may start relying on sprinkler systems to water their grass and landscaped areas because there may not be enough rain to do the job.

Please remember that in Melbourne, irrigation systems using well water or City-supplied water can only be used between the hours of **4 p.m. and 10 a.m.** to prevent water loss due to evaporation. Reclaimed water is exempt from the restriction as is the discharge from an air conditioning unit.

Remember, don't overwater. This can cause fungal growth and weeds. The recommended amount is about one inch per week whether by rain or by irrigation.

Account information available online

If you have questions about your utility bill account you can now check it online. You will need to have your account number to access the information.

Go to the City of Melbourne web site at www.melbourneflorida.org.

From there, you will find a link that reads: **Check your Utility Account Information Online**. Click on that and you will arrive at the

Utilities Customer Service page. Look to the left and click the link under **Making Utility Account Inquiries**.

In addition to checking your account, there is lots of other useful information you can access from the customer service page.

You can obtain information on various payment options and download an agreement form to participate in the automated debit program for bill payment. As of August there were 4,403 Melbourne utility customers participating in the automated program.

There is also information on vacation shut-off procedures,

water/wastewater and solid waste rates, sewer credits, toilet rebates, water conservation and much more. With some 62,000 Internet sessions a month, Melbourne's web site is proving to be a tremendously valuable communication vehicle.



Bits and Pieces from the City of Melbourne Solid Waste/Recycling Division



No bin? No worries

A set of three recycling bins is provided to single-family residents free of charge. Call the

Solid Waste/Recycling Division at 953-6302 if you live in the City of Melbourne. If outside Melbourne, call your city or Brevard County at 633-2043.

Don't miss the truck

Place recyclables curbside between 5 p.m. on the day before collection and 6:30 a.m. on collection day. Place the recycling bins within four feet of the curb or edge of the street surface, and adjacent to the driveway, on collection day. Just make sure you don't block the use of the sidewalks.

Electronic waste

The disposal of end-of-life cathode ray tubes or CRTs in TVs and computer monitors, as well as other computer and electronic equipment, is an emerging environmental issue primarily due to the lead content. There is a four monitor/CRT limit

per household per collection day.

E-waste generated by commercial businesses is not accepted by the Brevard County Landfill and cannot be placed out for collection.

For more information regarding E-Waste disposal, call Brevard County Solid Waste at 633-2043.

Refrigerant items

Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units, water coolers and similar items must be collected separately from household trash. All doors must be removed. If you are in the City of Melbourne, call 953-6302 to schedule pickup, or if outside the City, call Waste Management at 723-4455.

Treated wood

Residents disposing of items such as fencing, wooden play equipment, yard timbers, etc., should cut these items to four foot lengths or less and place them for collection on their regular garbage day. If you have a large quantity and require a special pickup, please call 953-6302 to schedule