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FEBRUARY 2008

## Water Metering The More You Conserve, the More You Save

City of Modesto water crews have begun a project to install automated metering service to all citizens currently served by the Modesto Water distribution system. *State Assembly bill 2572*, which became law in 2004, mandates that all services be metered and billed based on the volume of water delivered. When your new meter is read, it will measure the amount of water you have used from the prior month's meter reading to the current reading. The **Automated Meter Reading (AMR)** program will allow staff to read the meters electronically and will aid in the detection and reporting of water leaks.

*There are many things you can do to conserve water.*

Check for leaking pipes, faucets and toilet tanks. Even small leaks in pipes and connections that are not immediately repaired can waste over 50 gallons of water a day or 18,500 gallons per year. You can test for a toilet tank leak by placing a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If you see food coloring seep into the bowl, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. On most toilets, you may need to replace the flapper. A leaky toilet can waste up to 21,000 gallons per year.

*There are many ways you can conserve water AND reduce your bill:*

Comply with the **City's Drought Contingency Plan** to conserve water.

*The plan restricts outdoor water usage to the following:*

- Outdoor water use is prohibited daily between 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m.
- Outdoor water use is **prohibited on Mondays**.
- Odd-numbered addresses are permitted to water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.
- Even-numbered addresses are permitted to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

*Here are some additional tips for water conservation:*

- During the winter months, the cold and rain give us the opportunity to conserve water as well. Adjust your automatic landscape sprinkler systems to save water.
- Install low-flow shower heads that can save up to eight gallons for each minute the shower is used, or 4,800 gallons per person per year!
- Install a newer low-flow model toilet that uses water more efficiently, conserving water and saving you money.
- Wash only full loads in your washing machine. It takes almost the same amount of water to wash a half-load of clothes as it does to wash a full load, however, if you must wash less than a full load, remember to use the load selector to match the water level to the load size.

For more information visit [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) or contact the City of Modesto Water Division at (209) 342-2246.

## 2008 Collection Schedule

This calendar provides specific information about when to place yard trimmings out for collection. Trimmings are only collected once a month and it takes approximately two weeks for pick up in each collection area. *Questions? Call the Community Forestry Division at (209) 342-2249.*

### Key for Yard Trimming Collection:

- Only days you may place your trimmings out on the **STREET** for collection.
- Day crews **start** to pick up **STREET** collection (First Monday of Month)
- Only days you may place your trimmings out in the **ALLEY** for collection.
- Day crews **start** to pick up **ALLEY** collection (Third Monday of Month)

### February

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    | ①  | ②  |
| ③  | ④  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |

### March

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    |    | ①  |
| ②  | ③  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |

### April

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| ⑥  | ⑦  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

\* Due to the cyclic nature of mailing the City Beat with the utility water bills, some of the events/programs may have already occurred.

City Beat is printed on 30% recycled paper.

## MAKE A 'GREEN RESOLUTION' FOR 2008!

The following resolutions include useful tips about how to “be green” throughout the year. By committing to even a few of these resolutions, you can help the environment have a **Happy New Year**.

- **Remember to Reduce & Reuse:** Help to lessen the amount of waste by buying items that use little or no packaging, or “buying in bulk” which reduces unnecessary and excessive packaging. Also, find ways to use items over and over again, such as combining packing peanuts with potting mix for aeration, or using strawberry baskets for drawer organizers.
- **Buy Products Made From Recycled Materials:** Resolve to “buy green” by purchasing at least one recycled-content product on a regular basis (napkins, paper towels, computer paper). Look for the word “*made from post-consumer material*” or the recycling symbol on the labels of everyday items such as carpet, insulation, clothing or office products. There are many new products made from recycled beverage containers, including backyard planter boxes and fleece clothing.
- **Look for Recycling Opportunities:** Look for the nearest recycling bin when you are done with your drink, or hold onto your beverage containers until you get home and use your home recycling bin. With **2.8 million water bottles** going into the trash each day in California, every container you recycle makes a difference.
- **Ask for Recycling By Name:** If your gas station or convenience store doesn’t have a recycling bin, ask for one. If you ask for recycling opportunities, you’ll get them. It is easier than you think! At the office, start an office-wide recycling campaign, or put a bin next to your trash can for beverage containers. The money collected from CRV beverage containers can help your company reduce costs. Visit [www.bottlesandcans.com](http://www.bottlesandcans.com) to get a free start-up kit.
- **Get Out of the Car One Day a Week:** Resolve to spare the air. Carpool, use public transportation or ride your bicycle. Using alternative transportation a day or two a week is manageable, and getting out from behind the wheel can be relaxing. Plus, riding a bike fulfills the annual resolution to exercise more!
- **Conserve Energy:** Cut your monthly energy bills as much as 30 percent by replacing old equipment in your home with state-of-the-art Energy Star® products. Get going on those energy-efficient home improvements you’ve been putting off all year and eliminate the extra freezer in the garage. Turn off lights when you leave a room and set the thermostat at 70 degrees or lower in cold weather months, and 78 degrees or higher in the warm weather months. For more tips on conserving energy, visit [www.flexyourpower.ca.gov](http://www.flexyourpower.ca.gov).
- **Make Your Home a Toxic-Free Environment:** Keep your home healthy by reducing unnecessary toxic chemicals. Paints, solvents and other chemicals should be disposed of safely, not flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain. *Did you know baking soda and vinegar substitute as great all-purpose cleaners?* Other non-toxic household cleaners can be found at many stores. Cut down on pesticides and fertilizers in your garden and you’ll limit what gets washed into storm drains, groundwater, rivers, bays and the ocean.
- **Start a Compost Pile to Feed Your Garden:** Convert those yard clippings, vegetable peelings and even coffee grounds into nature’s fertilizer for your garden. Enroll in Modesto’s Backyard Composting Class at Modesto Junior College. It is free! Spring and Fall classes are available. Home composters can be found at most home and garden centers or obtained from the City of Modesto. For more information call the Solid Waste Division at 577-5494.

CITY OF MODESTO

### WASTE TIRE RECYCLING EVENTS

|                                |                                           |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Program guidelines:</b>     | <b>What to do:</b>                        |
| City of Modesto residents only | • Call garbage company and request coupon |
| No businesses                  | • Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781       |
| Tires with rims—OK             | • Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000      |
| Tires all sizes—OK             | • Take tires to garbage company           |
| Questions? Call (209) 577-5495 | • Do not mix tires with other waste       |

**FREE DISPOSAL ON DATES LISTED BELOW**

March 2-8, 2008  
April 6-12, 2008  
May 4-10, 2008

Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Zero Waste—You Make It Happen!



### Backyard Compost Classes

Learn how you can turn your old coffee grounds, garden weeds and table scraps into a rich nutrient for your garden, and do it all in your own backyard!

*Classes are free to Modesto residents.*

Call **Modesto Junior College** at 209-575-6063 to register.

#### Class Schedule:

March 15, 2008, 10:00AM – 12:00PM  
May 6, 2008, 6:30PM – 8:30PM