



# Customer Pipeline

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority

## We're Composting So Please, Leaf the Plastic behind!



Last month, we told you about the new ECUA biosolids/composting facility that is under construction at our Central Water Reclamation Facility. The ECUA Board approved this project in December, 2014, and construction is expected to be completed in late summer 2015.

The Composting Facility will be processing yard waste, combined with the biosolids derived from the water reclamation process, which will be turned into a compost product, and will be available to the community. Although the biosolids matter will be phased-in to the process once the facility's construction is complete, we began the composting of yard waste material in mid-March.

We're excited about this new service; however, we need your help to make it a success. In order to maximize the quality of the mulched yard waste, we recommend that customers use brown compostable paper yard waste bags, or reusable plastic cans designated for yard waste, in place of the traditional plastic yard trash bags. Plastic bags make yard waste unusable as compost or mulch because the plastic does not decompose. Thus, yard waste contaminated with plastic bags could end up in a landfill rather than as a more environmentally-friendly mulch. Furthermore, disposing of yard waste in the landfill significantly increases disposal costs of yard waste, which in turn could lead to an increase in rates.

Paper yard waste bags are easily found in home improvement centers and large retailers, through online sources and in garden centers and nurseries. Plus, if you ask for paper bags at the grocery store (yes, some local stores still offer this choice!), they'll serve double duty when you recycle them into yard trash bags!

It's never too early to start, so the next time you find yourself reaching for that plastic bag, remember to 'leaf the plastic behind' because brown is the new green!



### Mark Your Calendars!

ECUA offices will be closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday on **Friday, July 3**.



### Sanitation Schedule for the Independence Day Holiday

There are **no changes** to the collection schedules for all Residential and Commercial customers.

All garbage, yard trash, recycling and commercial dumpster collections will be made on their regularly scheduled days during the Independence Day holiday week.

**Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!**

## Update on Inflow & Infiltration Initiative



ECUA embarked on a sixteen-year initiative in 2013, focused on the reduction of inflow & infiltration (I & I) within the wastewater collection system. This program also assists us in the reduction of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). Much of our program focus has been on three defined areas within our system: Pen Haven, Cantonment, and the Downtown South portion of Pensacola. In addition, investigation of the condition of the collection system began in the 9th Avenue/Fairfield Drive area, where we have had a historically higher-than-average number of SSOs, and root issues (root intrusion into sewer mains) from a maintenance perspective.

Recent progress for this program (through 5/5/15) includes:

(1) the lining of approximately 1,055 service laterals (Cantonment and Pen Haven), which consists of rehabilitation of about 235 laterals in Cantonment, and approximately 820 in Pen Haven; lining of the balance of laterals, totaling about 65 in these two areas, is anticipated to be completed the first week in June;



(2) the Pen Haven Lift Station (LS #150) force main replacement was put into service several weeks ago and the contractor is in the process of completing punch list items;

(3) progress in the Downtown South area – work continues on replacement of main lines and laterals, a portion of this work is needed in order to subsequently line the main lines; and

(4) 9th Avenue/Fairfield Drive area – to date, approximately 19,000 linear feet of sewer mains and approximately 240 laterals have been inspected under the maintenance annual contract.



## Did You Know ?



Now that summer is in full swing, many of us are firing up the sprinkler systems or pulling out the water hose. Landscaping experts often provide recommendations on watering levels in terms of inches, but the question is: how to determine how long it takes to apply an inch of water to your lawn? Well here's the answer!

Simply set empty cans out in several places your yard. Tuna cans are ideal for this because they have a wide opening and are relatively shallow. Then, just time how long it takes your sprinkler to fill them up to one inch. It's that easy!

