

[<<Back](#)

November 24, 2004 at 6:44PM MST

**Jennifer Reardon** Reports

## **Scottsdale turns waste water into drinking water**



**Tucson is talking about it, but Scottsdale is already doing it -- treating sewage water to make it drinkable.**

It's sewage, also known as wastewater. The City of Scottsdale calls it water that should be treated, not to waste.

"If we don't do this, we'll have to borrow it, or at least use other resources," says David Mansfield, General Manager of Water Resources.

Effluent water is sent to 27 golf courses in the Scottsdale community.

Meanwhile, other effluent water goes through a three-step process to make it drinkable.

First, it is carried in blue tubing and taken through the process of microfiltration. Inside the tubes are what look like tiny hairs that help catch health hazards like bacteria, viruses and algae.

After it goes through the backwash process, it is then carried to the Reverse Osmosis Building.

"Water is pressurized, it runs through membranes that are in a tight spiral, and then, filters out extremely small particles," says Jim Clune, Director of Water Quality and Wastewater Treatment.

Finally, the water is recharged back into the aquifers, where it goes through its third and final filter deep underground.

"The soils act as final filter. We like to have the final stage just in case something went wrong here," says Clune.

Just like its tap water, the City of Scottsdale guarantees its wastewater, which goes through an advanced treatment process at the Scottsdale Water Campus, is safe to drink.



All content © Copyright 2003 - 2004 WorldNow and KVOA. All Rights Reserved.  
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).