City of Madera

Madera a Sustainable City

Welcome to the 2009 edition of the City of Madera newsletter! The City's new Mayor is Sam Armentrout. An area of the Vision Plan he wants to focus on is sustainability. The Madera Vision Plan:

- **Identifies the need to promote both governmental and citizen use of alternative sources of energy**
- **Calls for a sustainable community plan**
- **Establishes a goal of improving air quality through innovative and cooperative programs**
- **Identifies protection of water quality through innovative reclamation, conservation, and education as a priority and**
- **Promotes of recycling.**

In the next year you can expect to see Madera City government

- **Initiate a number of activities where the City may lead the way by example**
- **Encourage actions through education and its own publications**
- **Assist the private sector through partnership on a project by project basis**
- **Provide incentives. Resistance to change is difficult to overcome; incentives serve to reduce that resistance by reducing financial risk**

City staff has identified a limited number of signature sustainable projects that we will pursue over the next twelve months. These projects recognize that sustainability will require "leadership from the front". We can not expect the public to embrace sustainability if we are not willing to do so as well. These recommendations are summarized below:

- **Exploring the feasibility of solar energy at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Airport, Police Building, and a demonstration project at the youth center/swimming pool.**
- **Initial evaluation of the conversion of methane gas to electricity at the wastewater treatment plant.**
- **Development of a funding program for residential/commercial/industrial solar systems.**
- **A demonstration project with the Air Board addressing alleys.**
- **Various grant opportunities.**
- **Two ideas for a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction program.**

Madera is again LEADING the way!

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The City of MADERA VALLEY CENTRAL

Did You Know

When it comes to recycling these days, there are more options than most people might think. We are all well aware we have been recycling cans, bottles, papers and grass for years as well as virtually every other commodity such as aluminum, copper and steel once a product has outlived its useful life. The average person might even be aware that current laws within the State of California mandate that large percentages of construction material from home construction be diverted to facilities that can separate and reuse those materials. But, you may not know that large portions of roads including the asphalt, base material and concrete can be recycled.

There was a time when the materials removed were simply hauled away and not reused after they were pulled from the ground during reconstruction of a road. In recent years however, asphalt is pulled up and broken into small pieces to be laid down in areas to be used as economical parking lots that reduce dust or incorporated into the base materials of the new road. They can even be reground in place with additional oil to rejuvenate the material and put right back down within minutes as a new road surface. The old gravel (aggregate) base can be sent back to an aggregate supplier sometimes referred to as the batch plant or quarry. The silt, sand and gravel is separated from the base material and remixed in the proper proportions to be laid back down as road base. Concrete from old sidewalks, foundations or pipe can be crushed and used as aggregate base material. Surprisingly the use of concrete as a base material can sometimes provide an even more solid material than natural aggregate base material because when crushed, the concrete mix sometimes reactivates and solidifies with the addition of moisture thus creating a solid base for the asphalt pavement.

The City of Madera has regularly allowed contractors the option of using recycled base but is now reviewing and actively prepared to make some of these options a formally accepted alternative for construction materials on City construction projects.