

City of Tempe and Hudson Baylor West receive grants from AZRC

City of Tempe Grant: \$4,460.00

The primary goal of this grant is to increase public awareness and participation in recycling through the expansion of the NIKE Reuse-A-Shoe Program. Grant funds will also be used to purchase new athletic shoe collection containers. The containers will be a visible reminder to recycle and will advance environmental awareness. The purpose of the program is to divert athletic shoes from the landfill and recycle them into a sport surface by grinding down the soles of the shoes. In July 2008, Tempe shipped approximately 15,000 shoes to the NIKE Grind processing plant. In May 2008, Tempe resurfaced a city park tennis court with the NIKE Grind material. This initiative reaches a cross section of the community; young and old can participate. By grinding the soles of athletic shoes and repurposing them into rubberized athletic use, the NIKE Reuse-A-Shoe program illustrates the full circle of recycling and cradle-to-cradle concept. The program will be facilitated by Tempe Public Works, which has a large volunteer program already in place. Starting in August, they will set bins up in Tempe schools. They will work with Tempe School District, Tempe Parks and Recreation, and several of the marathon groups, such as P.F. Chang's Rock & Roll Marathon in January 2010.

Hudson Baylor West Grant: \$5,000.00

The goal of the Material Recovery Facility Education Center at Hudson Baylor West is to create a state-of-the-art, tactile learning experience for visitors who are interested in the recycling process. The education center will be designed to encourage the "Cradle-to-Cradle" philosophy of recycling. This method teaches that the recycling process begins with an educated consumer opting to purchase recyclable products as part of their recycling plan. It will educate citizens on identifying recycled materials and products and proper recycling practices. The information will be introduced using interactive stations built with recycled materials, video presentations, a virtual plant tour, high tech wall displays and take-home printed materials in English and Spanish. The education center will target school groups ages 6 and above as well as adult visitors. Various curricula will be created to serve varied age groups visiting the facility. Tours will last one hour and will be offered 5 days a week. Hudson Baylor anticipates having 5 - 30 participants in each tour and can accommodate up to 7 tours per day. They already have inquiries regarding plant tours and expect to begin in June 2009.