



## **City of Davis Public Works Department**

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Environmental column

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By Jennifer Franceschine, Conservation Coordinator

### **BUSINESSES CAN SAVE MONEY BY RECYCLING MORE**

Did you know that recycling can save you money? Recycling in Davis is free with regular trash service, so if you reduce the amount of trash you produce by recycling more, you can save money on your garbage bill. Call the City Recycling Program, 757-5686, for a free waste assessment to find out how you can increase your recycling rate and decrease your garbage bill. We can help you start a recycling program at your business and offer suggestions on how to reduce waste, increase recycling and promote yourself as an environmentally friendly business. You may even be eligible for a free recycling container.

### **NEW RECYCLING OPTIONS AT THE LANDFILL**

Finally, we have an option available to recycle plastic lawn furniture, old plastic toys, flower pots, ice chests, and buckets! All these items are usually made of rigid plastics, and now the Yolo County Landfill is accepting these and other rigid plastics for free recycling!

Do you have an old TV that you need to recycle? The Yolo County Central Landfill accepts electronics for free recycling on a daily basis. Not only does the landfill accept televisions, computer monitors and printers free of charge, but now the electronics program has expanded to include video and DVD players, cameras, blenders, vacuum cleaners, stereos, electric toothbrushes and more! Electronics are accepted for free at the landfill during normal business hours Monday-Saturday 6:30am-4:00pm and Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm.

### **FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT**

In order to make disposal of household hazardous wastes easier in 2007, there will be drop-off days scheduled the second Friday and Saturday of every month. Don't miss this month's events on January 12 and 13 from 9:00am to 2:00pm! Bring in your paints, pesticides, florescent light bulbs, poisons and more for FREE and safe disposal. Hazardous waste, such as paints and florescent light bulbs, can contaminate the groundwater with dangerous chemicals such as mercury, lead and cadmium if thrown in the landfill. Do your part and be sure to dispose of your hazardous waste safely by bringing it to a hazardous waste drop-off event. Mark your calendar for the household hazardous waste drop-off dates next month, February 9 and 10 from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

### **BACKYARD COMPOST CLASSES**

In the spring, the City Recycling Program will be offering two free composting classes. The classes will be held at the newly renovated compost demonstration area located at the

Community Gardens on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Classes will be held March 3 and April 23 from 1:00-2:00pm, covering the basics of starting and maintaining a compost pile in your own backyard, how to build your own compost bin and basic worm composting. To register for a class, call the Public Works Department at 757-5686. While all Davis residents are invited to attend the composting classes, please be advised that registration is on a first-come first-serve basis, with priority given to residents in single-family homes. To learn more about composting, check out [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org), click on “yard materials” and scroll down to “backyard composting.” You can also visit the new compost demonstration area at the Community Gardens and see composting happening in a variety of different bins built from reused materials. The demonstration area has recently been revamped with new signs and free brochures about composting—a walk-by composting class!

#### REUSE IS BETTER THAN RECYCLING

Recycling is very important for the health of our environment, but reuse is even better! Reusing material helps to reduce the amount of waste that we produce. Recycling can be very energy expensive, but reuse does not need to be at all. Simply using both sides of the paper, using plastic grocery bags to line your trash containers, or saving gift bags and tissue paper to reuse again can help to reduce the amount of waste we produce. Another great way to reuse is to donate your unwanted clothing, shoes, books, house wares, etc. to a local non-profit. On the flip side, if you are looking for a measuring spoon, warm jacket etc., try checking out a thrift shop first for a great bargain on a reused item.

For more information, visit [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) or email me at [PWweb@cityofdavis.org](mailto:PWweb@cityofdavis.org).