



City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental column

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NEW RECYCLING LAWS

Starting July 1 2007, a new state law is now helping Californians to recycle!

Assembly Bill 2449, effective July 1 2007, mandates that all plastic grocery bags must be labeled *Please Return to a Participating Store for Recycling*. Stores must also place recycling bins in visible and accessible locations for customers to recycle their plastic bags and must provide reusable bags for customers to purchase. The bill also requires retailers to provide consumers with education about bag reuse opportunities.

The new law applies only to supermarkets that have over 10,000 square feet of retail space, charge tax and have a pharmacy.

If you have many grocery bags you have been saving up because you do not want to toss them out—now you can bring them back to the grocery stores for recycling!

Not only do we want to encouraging recycling of plastic bags, but also their reuse! Reuse is better than recycling because it saves energy. Plastic grocery bags can be reused for many things—packing a lunch, carrying things and lining garbage cans inside your home.

While some recycling advocates are promoting an outright ban on all plastic grocery bags, I recommend caution—it is important to keep in mind the big picture. If plastic grocery bags are no longer available, people who are currently reusing plastic grocery bags for other purposes, lining their trash cans etc., would need to buy plastic trash can liners instead. These liners are made of thicker plastic film than grocery bags and are usually packaged in boxes that are wrapped in plastic—meaning more overall waste than reusing a single plastic grocery bag. Not only is the extra waste an issue, but there is also the environmental cost of shipping trash bag liners, burning fossil fuels which contributes to global warming.

The best thing to do for the environment is to bring your own bag when you go shopping—a cloth reusable bag or plastic grocery bags from last week—it doesn't matter. Just stop the waste before it starts by BYOB—Bringing Your Own Bag!

MORE CASH FOR RECYCLING

Also effective July 1st is an increase in the California Redemption Value (CRV) deposit that you pay when you purchase beverage containers. Now when you buy a bottle of

water, a can of soda etc, you will be paying 5 cents for containers less than 24 ounces and 10 cents for containers 24 ounces and larger (the previous CRV deposit was 4 and 8 cents). This increase affects all CRV containers including carbonated soft drinks, wine coolers, distilled spirit coolers, beer, sports drinks, coffee and tea drinks, fruit drinks, fruit juices packed in containers less than 46 oz., vegetable juice in containers 16 ounces or less and water (mineral, carbonated and non-carbonated).

Start saving up your CRV containers! You'd be surprised at how much you can save when you recycle them at a CRV refund center. In Davis there are two locations where you can cash in your bottles and cans:

Davis Waste Removal

2727 2nd Street

756-4646

(Mon-Fri 9:30am-2:00pm, Sat 8:00am-4:00pm)

TOMRA Pacific Inc. at Albertsons

1900 Anderson Road

1-800-266-2453

(hours vary)

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

Don't miss this month's free Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off events today and tomorrow, July 13th & 14th from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill. Bring in your paints, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, expired medicines and more for FREE and safe disposal. Mark your calendar for the HHW drop-off dates next month, August 10th and 11th from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Don't forget the excellent reuse opportunities at the landfill as well! Now, in addition to the regular Reusable Products Day the Saturday following each HHW drop-off, the landfill is offering reusable products during the HHW drop-off days too! All the reusable things collected at HHW days are available FREE! Stop by the landfill July 13th & 14th from 9:00am to 2:00pm and July 21st from 9:00-11:00 am to take your pick of free paints, fertilizers, household cleaners and more!

For more information, visit www.davisrecycling.org or email me at PWweb@cityofdavis.org.