



City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental Column

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By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator

1 YEAR OF RIGID PLASTIC RECYCLING AT DWR

It's been a year since Davis Waste Removal first began offering free drop-off recycling for rigid plastics #3, #5, #6, and #7 at their recycling center (2727 2nd Street).

Although DWR only can accept plastics #1 and #2 in their curbside and commercial recycling carts, the drop-boxes at the DWR Recycling Center gives Davis residents a chance to recycle more plastics than ever before.

Rigid plastics that are accepted for drop-off include any plastic container with #3, #5, #6, or #7 recycling symbols on them. This includes plastic laundry baskets, buckets, flower pots, garbage cans, children's outdoor plastic toys (sandboxes, slides, play kitchens), PVC pipe, plastic outdoor furniture, and other household items. Plastic buckets and other large rigid plastics with a #1 or #2 symbol are also accepted.

What are rigid plastics? A RIGID PLASTIC is any plastic that is stiff, as opposed to FILM PLASTICS, such as plastic bags, film and wrap.

Plastics #4 are not accepted because there are no local recyclers that will take the material for recycling. Check the bottom of a plastic container to find the chasing arrows with a number inside or just underneath it. This number is what tells you what kind of plastic the product is made from. For a detailed list of items accepted in the new recycling program, check out www.davisrecycling.org.

FREE COMPOSTING CLASSES

The City of Davis Public Works Department is offering free composting classes on Friday, May 30 at 2:00pm and Saturday, May 31 at 10:00am. The classes will be held at the compost demonstration area at the Community Gardens on 5th Street. Classes will cover both backyard composting and worm composting. Davis residents in single family homes can receive a free compost bin after attending the class. To sign up for class, call the Public Works Department at 757-5686.

WATER CONSERVATION

The weather is starting to get warmer, and plants are growing fast! Help us conserve water by watering your plants in the morning, when it's cooler and the water won't evaporate as quickly. To conserve water inside your home, try hand washing your dishes

instead of placing them in the dishwasher. Instead of using running water to thaw meat or other frozen foods, defrost food overnight in the refrigerator or use the defrost setting on your microwave. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and shaving and take shorter showers. You can save a lot of water by running your washing machine with a full load of clothes instead of a partial load. More water conservation tips can be found online at www.cityofdavis.org/pw/water/conserves.cfm.

MAY IS BIKE MONTH

Davis City Council has officially declared May as Bike Everywhere Month. Try riding your bike to work, school, the store or just for fun! Cycling helps alleviate traffic congestion, save energy, reduce air and noise pollution, and improve public health. Check out the brand new bike/ped under crossing at Covell Blvd. and attend the free bicycle rodeo this Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at the parking lot of 600 A St. This event, aimed at kids ages 5 to 12, will include a bicycle skills course, helmet fittings, bicycle safety trivia, prizes, fun and more. For more information, visit www.cityofdavis.org/streetsmarts.

REUSABLE GROCERY BAGS

Instead of taking a plastic or paper bag from the grocery store, try bringing your own bag and help us reduce waste. If you want a reusable grocery bag made from recycled plastic bottles, come and see us at Celebrate Davis! and try out your skills at recycle-toss! Toss a plastic bottle or can into a recycling bin and win a free reusable grocery bag! The recycle toss will be at the City of Davis Public Works Department booth on the south end of the park.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events, May 9 and 10, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill. Bring in your empty propane canisters, 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, June 13 and 14, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Check out the reuse opportunities at the landfill as well. During each HHW drop-off event reusable items are available for FREE. Stop by the landfill during a HHW drop-off event 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.