



City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental Column

July 11, 2008

By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator

RECYCLE YOUR OLD CELL PHONES

With the new hands-free cell phone law, many people are purchasing new cell phones that make it easier for them to comply with the law. If you have purchased a new cell phone, remember to recycle your old phone! Any store that sells cell phones can also take them back for recycling. There are many other places to recycle your old cell phone—many non-profit groups and charities collect cell phones to recycle or reuse. Please remember that it is illegal to throw cell phones and all other electronics in the trash.

Electronics such as television and computer monitors, cellular phones, fax machines, printers, stereos, keyboards, vacuum cleaners, toasters, typewriters, VCR's, CPU's, microwaves and more can be recycled for free at the Yolo County Central Landfill during normal operating hours. There is a fee for appliances.

REUSE YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS!

The annual turnover time is almost here—that crazy time of year when apartment leases end and it seems like half the town is moving! If you or someone you know is moving, please consider donating unwanted items instead of throwing them away. Each year, many people resort to “dumpster diving” to retrieve good items that were thrown away by residents that are in a hurry to vacate their homes before their lease is up. Instead of tossing your stuff in the trash, please donate it for reuse.

There are many places in Davis where you can bring your stuff for reuse. The SPCA Thrift Store, R & R Thrift Store and R & R Consignment all take previously owned items for reuse. Check out the City of Davis **Recyclopedia** online at www.davisrecycling.org for places to reuse and recycle everything from refrigerators, clothing, home décor and furniture. Please help keep our city clean and NEVER place your unwanted furniture on the sidewalk or in the street.

CONSERVE WATER!

On June 4th, Governor Schwarzenegger issued an Executive Order on drought conditions and directed immediate state action to deal with the crisis. Last month, the final Department of Water Resources (DWR) snow survey of 2008 showed snowpack water content at only 67 percent and the runoff forecast at only 55 percent of normal. This follows two consecutive years of below-average rainfall and very low snowmelt runoff.



The City of Davis continues to help residents save water by providing free leak checks, water use analysis, and by offering a clothes washer rebate program. To request a free leak check or water use analysis, please call Public Works at 757-5686 during business hours. Single family residential accounts may qualify for a washer rebate program by visiting www.cityofdavis.org/pw/water/Rebate.cfm, or by calling Public Works.

Water customers need not spend money in order to save money. In fact, water conservation will cut down on utility bills. Some simple ways to save water include:

- Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest, this reduces losses from evaporation.
- Don't allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway, or sidewalk.
- Set your mower blades so they cut grass about 2 to 3 inches tall. Mowing it shorter dries out the soil faster and increases water use.
- Mulch plants to reduce evaporation and weed growth.
- Put bathroom trash in the waste basket instead of flushing it down the toilet.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher with full loads.

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events, July 11 and 12, 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, August 8 and 9, 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.