



City of Davis Public Works Department

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Move-Out Program Gears Up—Volunteers Needed to Prevent Waste

The time is nearly here when one-quarter of the city's population prepares to move. As UC Davis students leave their leased apartments, an assortment of household goods, from couches to clothing, begins its way to the Yolo County landfill.

To prevent good reusable material from being landfilled, the City of Davis Public Works Department Recycling Program is again teaming up with apartment managers to provide an alternative way for residents to get rid of their stuff—the 12th annual Apartment Move-Out Waste Reduction Program (AMOWRP).

The program places “donation stations” next to apartment dumpsters, and apartment residents are encouraged to donate items they no longer want instead of throwing them in the trash. Local non-profits working with the City also stop by and pick through the material, taking what they want and need. It's like a free garage sale, and volunteers who assist are invited to keep any items they find at the donation station.

Donation stations will be set up August 24 and will remain until the first week of September. During that time, volunteers are needed to help keep the donation stations tidy; place cushions on sofas, stack books, bag up donated clothing, and sort donated items such as clothing, furniture, food and kitchenware. “If the donation stations look messy, broken furniture and household garbage often gets thrown in and the donation stations will literally be trashed,” says Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator for the City of Davis and the project manager for the move-out program. “We need to maintain the donation stations so that they do not look like a dump site for trash but more like a garage sale.”

Residents in a hurry to move out, often dump their stuff in the donation station, and take off. People scavenging through the donation station also leave a mess, making the clean-up and organization process a continual job. “Our goal is to visit the donation stations at least twice a day to keep them organized,” says Gilbert. “That's a minimum requirement. In order to make this program effective, we need volunteers so that we can monitor the donation stations more carefully.”

AMOWRP volunteers are asked to commit to working a minimum of 2 hours. Volunteers will not be asked to lift things into bins, go into trash bins to retrieve items, help residents move items or help load items into cars. All volunteers are responsible for providing

their own transportation to the sites and must fill out the required paperwork prior to assisting.

“This is a great opportunity to help the community, reduce waste and help the environment,” says Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator for the City of Davis and the project manager for the move-out program. “You can actually see the difference that you are making for the environment.”

Last year, with the help of 60 volunteers, the AMOWRP was able to reduce the turnover waste by 40%.

Interested volunteers can contact the City of Davis Public Works Department to sign up for the AMOWRP program by calling 757-5686 or emailing PWWeb@cityofdavis.org. Non-profit groups that are interested in receiving donations of clothing, furniture, food and house wares from the move-out are also encouraged to contact Public Works.

Only residents living in apartment communities that are participating in the AMOWRP may use the donation stations. Since the donation stations are on private property, public use would be considered illegal dumping. If you are moving out, there are other ways to reuse and recycle your unwanted items. Household goods, clothing and furniture in good condition can be donated to several local non-profit groups and thrift stores. For a full list of places to take your unwanted items for reuse, check out the City of Davis Recyclopeda at www.davisrecycling.org, or call the Public Works Department at 757-5686.