

## Apartment Move-Out Waste Reduction Program (AMOWRP)

Every year the City of Davis Recycling Program teams up with apartment managers to encourage reuse of items and reduce the amount of waste generated during the yearly August move-out. Davis Recycling staff sets up donation stations at participating apartment properties and residents donate usable items they no longer want or need. Local non-profit groups and other apartment residents stop by and take items they want. The end result is that good, usable items are kept out of the trash.

### How the Program Works:

Near the end of August, City recycling program staff will set up donation stations using caution tape and traffic cones to mark the boundaries of the station. Each participating property may have 1 or 2 donation stations, depending on the number of residents moving out, the available space, and the managers preference. Blue Clearstream frames are set up in the station to collect clothes, shoes and linens. During the AMOWRP, City recycling program staff will stop by the donation stations to collect the bags for donation to local non-profit groups.

If volunteers and apartments are both willing to do a little extra work, non-perishable food can be collected using boxes placed in the apartment club house or laundry room. Once the boxes are full, either apartment staff or volunteers take the food to the Yolo County Food Bank or other non-profit.

During turnover, most large apartment properties rent large 40 yard dumpsters. Be sure to always leave the front end of the dumpster clear of donated items so that Davis Waste Removal can pick it up whenever it's full. Be careful not to lean things against the dumpster! These large dumpsters are intended to be for mattresses and other large furniture items, NOT for regular household trash. During the move-out program, City Recycling Program staff will place signs on the large dumpsters asking that residents not place their household trash in the dumpsters. Since the large dumpsters can sit for days before they are emptied, kitchen waste inside can become very offensive.

Items that are left in the donation station are "up for grabs" for whoever wants to take them. Non-profit groups usually are only interested in certain items and require them to be in good condition. We encourage residents who live at the apartments and our volunteers to help themselves to whatever is left in a donation station.

We do not want to have good, usable items going into the landfill!

However, we DO NOT advertise to the public where these donation stations are, nor do we encourage the general public to come and help themselves. These stations are set up on private property and there are liability issues with encouraging people to show up and take whatever they want.

That being said, we do not usually discourage "scavengers" who are taking things from a donation station. Most local residents already know about the "move-out madness" in Davis and have seen all the furniture that is left behind every year. As a result, many people drive around the city from property to property gathering up furniture and other items. Scavengers will come onto the property whether we set up a donation station or not.

It is very important that the donation stations remain tidy. If a donation station is messy and unkept the apartment managers may not want to participate in the program the next year.

By ourselves, the City Recycling Program staff cannot keep track of all the donation stations throughout the City—we need the help of volunteers to help us keep an eye on donation stations to make sure that they stay neat and tidy. Volunteers are important for this program to be successful!!



A donation station before (above) and after (below) being organized.



A donation station that was trashed by residents in a hurry to move out.



## Volunteers—Levels of commitment:

All volunteers are asked to work a minimum of 2 hours for the AMOWRP (2 hours in one day or 2 days for 1 hour). The AMOWRP typically runs the last week and a half of August. The City must know in advance what dates and approximate times each volunteer will be working. There are 4 basic levels of commitment for the program. Variations and combinations of these levels are available.

### Level 1

An individual volunteers a few hours to organize donation stations in an assigned route. City staff assign the volunteer a route and give the volunteer a map to all the apartments in that route. Volunteer is asked to sign up for whatever days, hours that they are available to work.

### Level 2

A group of several volunteers work a few hours to organize donation stations in an assigned route. City staff assigns the volunteer group a route and give the volunteers a map to all the apartments in that route. Volunteers are asked to sign up for whatever days, hours that they are available to work and let City staff know.

### Level 3

A group of several volunteers “adopt” an apartment (or more than one apartment) and organize their hours and shifts to keep those donation stations tidy throughout the program. They are the only volunteers that will be working at that donation station throughout the program. Volunteers let City staff know ahead of time what these shifts will be.

### Level 4 (this can be done in combination with level 2 or 3)

An individual or group of several volunteers “adopt” a local non-profit. Non-profits provide the City with “wish lists” of items that they are in need of. These wish lists are given to volunteers who are working at apartments. During the program, volunteers collect the items they find that are on the wish lists and deliver them to the non-profits.

## Volunteer Duties:

- Volunteers are asked to provide their own safety vests and gloves. If volunteers do not have their own, the City can lend safety vests and gloves to volunteers while supplies last. If you borrow these items from the City, please return them so they can be used next year. Volunteers are wear safety vests and gloves at all times while you are volunteering for the AMOWRP.
- Each donation station should be visited at least twice per day to monitor and organize materials.
- Always check that each donation station has boundaries marked with blue “recycling” tape. If the tape has become undone, please reattach it.
- Check to make sure that the Clearstream clothing collection container has the bag and signs firmly attached. **Please make sure that the Clearstreams are firmly tied with the blue recycling tape to some immovable object (tree, post, fence, or if necessary, cones) so they will not be stolen.**
- Make sure that nothing is attached to or leaning against the dumpsters.



- Organize and straighten up the site—sofa cushions on the sofa, drawers in desks, smaller items placed in boxes or on tables, etc.
- Try to keep the items in donation stations away from lawns and landscaping when possible—spray from sprinklers can ruin perfectly good stuff!
- Collect clothes, shoes, purses, backpacks, hats, belts, blankets, sheets and other linens, and bag them up. These items are collected by the City Recycling Staff and taken to local non-profits.

The AMOWRP is a very rewarding program that really makes a difference in our community and for the environment. It's also a lot of fun—like a city-wide garage sale, but everything is free! Please join us as we save resources, prevent waste and put unwanted items into the hands of people that need them.

If you are interested in participating in the AMOWRP, please contact the City of Davis Public Works Department at 757-5686 or [pwwweb@cityofdavis.org](mailto:pwwweb@cityofdavis.org).

