

September 2010



# Cool Davis

## INITIATIVE

### Coalition Partners

- Care for God's Creations
- City of Davis
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers
- Davis Bicycles
- Davis Bike Collective
- Davis Energy Group
- Davis Farm-to-School
- Davis Farmers Market
- Davis Food Coop
- Davis Joint Unified School District
- Davis Waste Removal
- Explorit
- Green Sanctuary
- Putah Creek Council
- Sierra Club Yolo Group
- Tree Davis
- Tuleyome
- UCD Arboretum
- Yolo Basin Foundation
- Yolo Clean Air
- Yolo Federal Credit Union
- Yolo Food Bank
- Yolo Land Trust
- Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
- Valley Climate Action Center

*If you are interested in becoming a partner, contact Dominique Sayer at (530) 757-4362*



### The Davis Climate Action Plan

Recently the City adopted a "Climate Action Plan" (CAP) with a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to at least 1990 levels by 2020, but hoping to do even better than that. In either case, to reach these goals means each one of us cutting our emissions essentially in half. There are a lot of things the City can do to increase energy efficiency, but the goal cannot be reached without the active engagement on a personal level of all Davisites.

The City adopted a series of "Phase One" actions to get the ball rolling; setting an interim target for the year 2015, with 22 "Priority One" action proposals, in six general categories, many of which invite our participation. The six categories are: Mobility, Energy, Waste and Consumption, Food and Agriculture, Community Engagement, and Government Operations.

Each edition of this newsletter will feature one or more of the 22 Priority One Action Proposals, including a short discussion of what that action is, why it was chosen, how much energy can be saved (and greenhouse gas emissions avoided), and what we, as individual citizens, can do to help.

The articles will be archived on the City web site (<http://cityofdavis.org/cdd/sustainability/>) --- where you can also find a complete copy of the Climate Action Plan, as well as a lot of other information about the general topic of sustainability in Davis.



## 5th Annual Neighbors Night Out

The City of Davis & the UC Davis and Associated Students of UC Davis (ASUCD) are planning the 5th annual Davis Neighbors' Night Out for Sunday, October 10th, 2010. Neighbor's Night Out is a celebration of our community. The event began in 2006 as a pilot project to help students and neighbors develop positive relationships. The event has grown from 60 to over 140 parties in 2009. The event is an informal opportunity for neighborhoods to increase familiarity and communication among neighbors by way of a block party.

Waiting for your block party to begin? Or looking for something to do after your party? The Cool Davis Initiative invites the Davis community to attend its 10-10-10 event at the Veterans Memorial Center from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.. This free event is open to all. Come and enjoy this celebratory interactive, educational, and cultural event in our city that connects low-carbon lifestyle choices with a healthy environment, personal well-being, eco-justice, and a thriving community.

### Tips for Hosting a Zero-Waste Event:

- Have separate trash cans for Food Waste, Recycling and Trash and have them clearly marked
- Provide pitchers for water/lemonade instead of buying bottles
- Use paper plates and plastic cups in lieu of Styrofoam
- Suggest attendees bring reusable items (mugs, utensils, etc.)
- Create reusable, weatherproof banners, stands and signage

*For more tips see next page.*

### Cool Davis Member Profile

Judy, Co-Chair of the Cool Davis 10-10-10 Weekend ([www.cooldavis.org](http://www.cooldavis.org)), is excited about bringing the Davis community as individuals, households, businesses, and organizations together to reduce our citywide carbon footprint. Since a child, she has loved nature from the daily miracle of sunrise to the life cycles of plants and animals to the geologic history of Earth. While she has longed been concerned about the environmental health of our planet, she found the rising level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere to be a call to action. Starting in 2005 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, she led the congregation through a demanding program to become a Green Sanctuary

Judy Moores

([www.uudavis.org](http://www.uudavis.org)). As an outgrowth of Green Sanctuary work, she consulted with regional faith groups on becoming "green," and worked with the interfaith group Care for God's Creation to put on environmental conferences. She has given workshops, mentored classes, and written articles on related topics. She and her husband Eldridge were among the first in Davis to add solar panels to their roof. They eat mostly vegetarian food, bike around town more than they drive, take 4 minute showers, buy energy star appliances as their old ones wear out, purchase carbon offsets, write letters on issues such as "No on Prop 23", and do their best to live green. Judy says, " If we are to keep Earth habitable for humans and most other plants and animals, we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions quickly and significantly ... and there is no reason we can't have fun at the same time!"

## How to Hold a Zero Waste Neighbor's Night Out!

Here are a few tips from the Cool Davis Initiative on how to host a zero waste Neighbors' Night Out. Even just a few conscious decisions can make a big difference.

### Before the Event

Essential reminder: the most successful way to reduce your waste is to avoid producing it in the first place. So, to that end, use these considerations when preparing for your event.

#### 1) *E-vite your Guests*

Send invitations via email to help save money and paper. Include these zero waste guidelines in your invitation to encourage your neighbors to follow them as well. If you are hand-delivering invitations, print them on the back of used sheets of paper or use post-consumer recycled paper.

#### 2) *Prepare Local Dishes that Reduce Packaging and Limit Waste*

Prepare dishes with locally grown produce and with ingredients that can be bought in the bulk section. Make sure to bring your own bags and jars to the store. In this way, you'll support local farmers, produce a meal with a low-carbon impact, and create less throw-away packaging. Encourage your neighbors to do the same, and have them "show-off" how little packaging their dish required! To limit leftovers, try to coordinate dishes so that there will be just enough food for everyone.

#### 3) *Encourage Drinks that Reduce Packaging*

Avoid packaging; recycling seems great but it still uses a huge amount of energy. Aluminum cans are the most readily and efficiently recycled; if neighbors purchase drinks for the event, encourage canned drinks over glass ones. Plastic #1 and #2 containers are the most readily recycled, #3-#7 plastics are more difficult. Bonus points for neighbors who make their own drinks, which requires little or no packaging at all! Serve pitchers of water to avoid plastic bottled water.

### During the Event

#### 4) *Use Reusable Dishware*

Rely on all things reusable; disposable dishware is wasteful, and although biodegradable dishware is better it still requires vast amounts of embodied energy to produce and must be broken down in a commercial compost facility. Use your own reusable dishware and invite your neighbors to help wash dishes afterwards; or invite your neighbors to bring their own plates and utensils. Use cloth tablecloths and napkins to further reduce the resources your event consumes. If you must use disposable dishware, look for the kind that is "home compostable."

#### 5) *Label Recycling and Compost Bins*

Label bins to encourage your neighbors to place the recycling and the compost in the right places. Have a smaller "landfill" bin nearby, for everything that cannot be recycled or composted.

#### 6) *Brainstorm More Ideas*

Display a white board or butcher paper to capture more suggestions on how to hold a zero waste event. There are a great many ways to reach zero waste. Your guests will enjoy sharing and discussing their ideas about how to adapt and expand these guidelines for other events.

### After the Event

#### 7) *Invite your Guests to "Analyze" Your Waste*

Dump out the "landfill" bin and have your guests gather round and analyze the waste. Discuss why this waste was produced, and what steps could be taken to avoid the waste in the future. Continued on next page...

## Zero Waste Event Tips Continued....

### 8) **Wash Your Dishes in a Water-Efficient Manner**

Set out some wash bins with hot water for guests to wash their own dishes. The first bin is for dirty water, the second bin is cleaner water, and the last bin is the cleanest for the final rinse. This helps reduce the amount of water required to wash the dishes, and ensures that everyone pitches in.

### 9) **Compost**

Make sure you have secured a place to compost the organic matter. If you don't have your own compost bin, invite a neighbor with a compost bin to take on the extra material. Or, use this event as an incentive to start your own bin (<http://cityofdavis.org/pw/recycle/backyardcompost.cfm>)

### 10) **Leftovers?**

Invite your neighbors to take home some of the leftovers—in reusable containers— so that you aren't overburdened with food.

These simple steps can help ensure your Neighbors' Night Out comes as close to zero waste as possible. For more resources on how to live a sustainable lifestyle, please consult the National Resources Defense Council's Guide to Greener Living: <http://www.nrdc.org/cities/living/gover.asp>

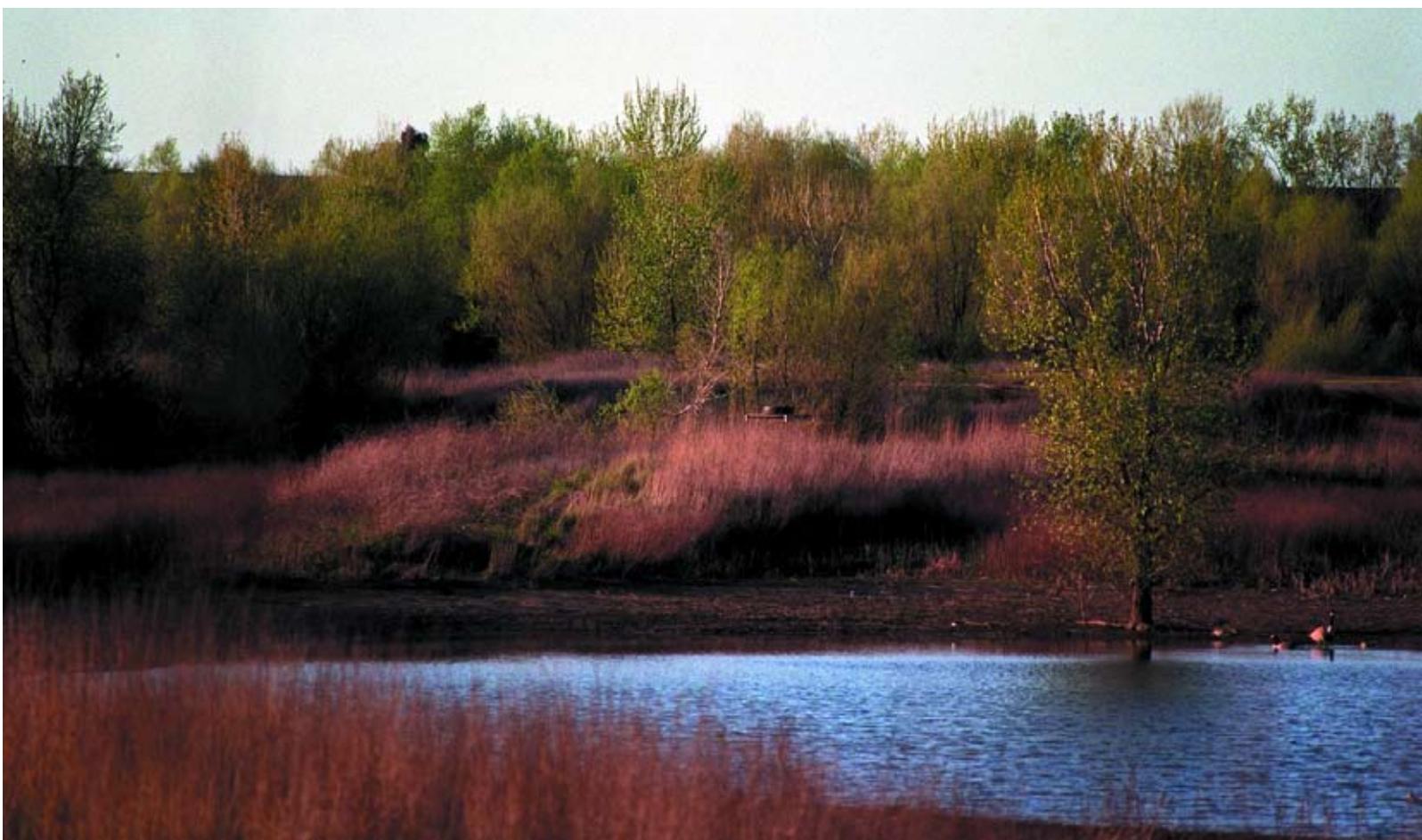
Have a zero waste suggestion that isn't listed here? Please send it to Brennan Bird [bbbird@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bbbird@ucdavis.edu) so we can add it to our list!

BE SURE TO COME TO THE COOL DAVIS WEEKEND: [www.coolddavis.org](http://www.coolddavis.org)

COOL DAVIS CLIMATE ACTION WORK DAY: Saturday, October 9, 2010

COOL DAVIS FESTIVAL: Sunday, October 10, 2010, 2-5pm

Veterans Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th Street, Davis, CA





## Taking the confusion out of recycling

Contributed by Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator, City of Davis

Did you know that recycling is one of the easiest ways you can help slow climate change and global warming? By recycling at home, you help significantly lower carbon emissions associated with extracting virgin materials, manufacturing products and waste disposal. Recycling one ton of paper, bottles and cans can prevent the release of 3 tons of green house gas.

In general, here are a few things to keep in mind when recycling:

- Cleanliness counts. Rinsing cans and bottles makes them easier to process.
- Pay attention to what goes in your recycling bin and be an accurate recycler. A cereal box is great to recycle, but a greasy pizza box isn't. Milk jugs are good, milk cartons aren't recyclable.
- For those of you in single-family homes with split-recycling carts, YES it DOES matter which side of the recycling cart you put your materials into. When the recycling truck empties the cart, the paper goes into one compartment of the truck, and the bottles and cans go into a separate compartment.
- In Davis, steel cans, aluminum cans, clean aluminum foil, aluminum pie plates, plastic food and beverage containers (#1 and #2 only), metal caps and lids, milk jugs, and glass food and beverage containers can all be recycled. For single-family homes, these items can be placed in the half of the recycling cart with a blue lid. For apartments and businesses, these can go into the recycling cart labeled "glass, plastic and cans".
- Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, office paper, cereal boxes, shredded paper and small cardboard boxes can all be recycled with paper. Paper can be placed in the half of the recycling cart with a black lid (for single-family homes) and for apartments and businesses, these can all be placed in the recycling cart labeled "paper".
- These items cannot be placed in the recycling carts: plastic grocery bags, Styrofoam, light bulbs, food-soiled paper, wax paper, ceramics, plastic caps/lids and glass dishes.

If you still have a question about how to recycle or dispose of something, check your recycling guide, go online to [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) or call Davis Public Works at (530) 757-5686.

### COME HELP US CHANGE THE WORLD-STARTING IN DAVIS

Cool Davis Climate Action Work Day - October 9, 2010

Cool Davis Festival - October 10, 2010

The Cool Davis 10-10-10 Weekend is sponsored by the Cool Davis Initiative with its Coalition Partners. Together we will find climate solutions. Please join us as a volunteer, a sponsor, or a participant.

Volunteers needed to help with 10-10-10:

- Veggie Bag Service Project: Sew veggie bags to give away at the Festival as models. Project coordinator needed as well as individual sewers. We need someone to sew at a table at 10-10-10 and give out the bags. Sewing directions available. Our goal is to reduce the number of plastic bags used inside the grocery stores.
- Sign up for service projects at our website or start one of your own.
- Publicity: Put up posters and lawn signs. Help with T-shirts.
- Farmer's Market. Wednesday Night and Saturday morning shifts. Help spread the word!
- 10-10-10 at Vets Memorial: Help with set-up/clean-up, composting, posters, bike parking, etc.
- Help at 10-10-10: entrances, courtyard, gopher
- 10-10-10 Table volunteers: Prop 23 table, 10-10-10 phoning legislators table, Low Carbon Diet Table
- Join the Cool Davis 10-10-10 Planning Committee. Meetings on Monday afternoons, 1-3p.m.

Volunteers contact Lynne Nittler @sbcglobal.net or phone 530-756-8110.

Please visit our website for details about the events, to sign up to volunteer for projects, help with the event or make a much appreciated tax deductible donation. [www.cooldavisfoundation.org](http://www.cooldavisfoundation.org).



To subscribe to future editions of the Cool Davis Initiative Newsletter visit [www.cityofdavis.org/](http://www.cityofdavis.org/) email

If you are not currently enrolled to receive email communication from the city, you may create an account at this time. Once complete or if you are a current user, log in and simply check the box for 'Cool Davis' to subscribe.



# Food Bank of Yolo County

## The Food Bank of Yolo County Energy Savings = More Food

A few months ago I had the privilege of interviewing Jose Martinez, the director of the Yolo Food Bank. I was both impressed and moved by the experience. I did my homework in advance. On the website I read the mission statement: to alleviate hunger and malnutrition in Yolo County. The goal sounded so reasonable, so reachable until I saw the sobering statistics. In 2008, almost 20,000 people in our own county were food insecure, and 5,900 of them were children. A more recent survey indicates 30,000 Yolo residents live with a threat of hunger, and 10,000 students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Last year, the Yolo Food Bank distributed 2.7 million pounds of food.

But on the day I visited, José Martinez was much too busy being part of the solution to succumb to gloominess. I found his cheerful, can-do attitude infectious. He was pleased to show off the facilities. The clean warehouses are neatly stacked with flats of canned goods and bags of rice, mostly donated from manufacturers, retail stores and food drives. One warehouse is set up for some 70 shelters, soup kitchens, schools and food pantries to pick up the supplies they need, including programs like STEAC. Another huge warehouse contains shipments of USDA canned and bagged goods for distribution. In another are food boxes packed and ready for delivery to rural sites. Everywhere smiling volunteers and staff looked up from their work briefly as this kind and energetic gentleman made his rounds. José skillfully oversees ten full-time and part-time staff and hundreds of volunteers who coordinate all the various food programs.

José was clearly most proud of his fresh produce program, now expanding from only 50,000 pounds of donated produce only a few years ago to 650,000 pounds of mostly purchased produce today. The growth in produce reflects his deliberate investment in nutrition as the Food Bank takes its mission seriously to guide the people it serves to more nutritious eating. A recently completed teaching kitchen features a number of cooking classes showing how to prepare nutritious meals from the

produce grown in the new garden plot that the Master Gardeners have planted on the grounds. Part of the garden demonstrates container vegetables as a model for apartment dwellers. Jose wants to empower his clients to grow some of their own food. I must have looked bewildered for there was not even a tomato in sight. José laughed and assured me the produce goes out daily to "moveable markets" all around the county. None of it goes to waste!

Personally, I was especially interested in how the Yolo Food Bank might partner with the Cool Davis Initiative in our mutual quest to lower greenhouse gas emissions. It turns out Jose had already scrutinized every aspect of his operations to find efficiencies that in turn allow more money to go toward food. Volunteers from Davis, West Sac, and Winters pick-up and deliver items from their home locations to the Woodland site to consolidate car trips and save on both gas and emissions. He has ordered a thorough energy audit and upgraded his insulation, windows, and heating and cooling systems as recommended. Currently, José is seeking funding for solar panels to power the walk-in coolers. The money saved on electricity could go to food instead. Energy efficiency makes good financial sense for the food bank.

Ostensibly, Jose retired a few years ago, but within months he came right back. He just couldn't leave the work he loved so much.

