

Jan. 2011

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- Davis Bike Collective
- Davis Energy Group
- Davis Farm-to-School
- Davis Farmers Market
- Davis Food Coop
- Davis Joint Unified School District
- Davis Waste Removal
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- Green Sanctuary
- Putah Creek Council
- Sierra Club Yolo Group
- Tree Davis
- Tuleyme
- 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) 757-5642



THE DAVIS CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ENCOURAGES WALKABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

The Davis Climate Action Plan includes an action item to make it easier for residents to meet their daily needs without having to drive a car. This includes getting kids to and from school, picking up groceries, and running other minor errands. The state and federal government have acted to increase mpg for cars and encourage electric vehicles, and the city is looking at ways to cut down on the number of trips people have to make in their cars.

The “Safe Routes to School” program is one key part of this, but the city is also examining how to make neighborhoods more “walkable.” This is easy to do in new development but much harder in existing neighborhoods. Davis is lucky that much of the city was designed and built to be walkable, but there are things that can be done to make it even more so.

For example: increasing density in existing neighborhoods, encouraging neighborhood scale commercial development, and incorporating convenient access to transit options. Portland, Oregon is one of several cities pioneering the “20-Minute Neighborhood” with pedestrian-oriented access to the places and services people use nearly every day.

This is not a new idea; it is a rediscovery of an old one. Even as recently as the 1930’s, before owning a car was common, practically all neighborhoods provided basic services within a short walking distance. Efforts to recreate this *continued on next page...*

have the added benefit of also bringing back a sense of neighborliness and community that has been difficult to sustain in an automobile dominated environment.

Given that the average walking speed is about 3 miles per hour, the radius for a 20 minute walk is about a mile. This may be too far to easily carry groceries and will seem even further in the heat of a Central Valley summer and for many persons who are elderly or have mobility-related disabilities. Perhaps we need to think in terms of a "10-Minute Neighborhood."

The Climate Action Plan does not identify any specific sites for increased density and mixed use but some current neighborhood commercial centers are possible locations. For example, Davis Manor Shopping Center on East 8th Street could be a site for multi-story residential with ground level neighborhood commercial. It's big enough that it could be designed to have minimal adverse effect on adjacent housing, it's on an existing transit (bus) route, and it's near a school site (Valley Oak). Similar opportunities exist in other parts of town.

Changing existing neighborhoods is not impossible; communities in Europe and elsewhere have been doing it for centuries.



Partner Profile

Caffé Italia est. 1982, is owned and operated by Davis locals, Kevin and Shar Katz. "We are proud to be a home-grown Independent Restaurant. We love what we do, we love our community, and we plan to keep cooking in Davis for another 30 years."

A little history about Caffé Italia: Kevin and his father Bert opened the doors back in 1982, as the Italian Cottage. (many of you may know of the original Italian Cottage in Chico, CA est. 1965, still owned and operated by mom Judy and brother Brian Katz.) When a split in the family occurred, the Davis location became Caffé Italia. Kevin has been operating

Caffé Italia since the mid eighties while Bert began his retirement and moved to Idaho and Kevin bought Caffé Italia. In 1995, Kevin met Shar, they married in 2000, and started a family of their own in 2003. They have a son Jagger (7), and a daughter Gabrielle (5) and Caffé Italia is literally a Mom & Pop operation.

With the start of their own family, Shar began to take to heart some of the ways they could improve upon the way they do business. One big question is always, how could they be more sustainable? "We want to do the best we can in reducing our waste. The restaurant industry uses a lot of energy, and produces a lot of waste. But today, there are a lot of innovative ways to reduce waste, and help Mother Earth. There is always room for improvement. Many of these improvements are costly, but some can save money, which is a big deal for business during any economy. Ultimately, I am trying to use our business as a way to push through change for the better. For our kids and our community as a whole."



Low Carbon Teams

For several years now, our city has been promoting Low Carbon Diet teams as one of the easiest and most rewarding ways for families to identify their greenhouse gas emissions and take actions to reduce them. A group of 6-10 households



gets together three or four times over a period of weeks (for example, meeting weekly for four weeks, or every other week for six weeks) and uses David Gershon's Low Carbon Diet, A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds as a guide. After measuring their carbon footprints at www.coolcalifornia.org, the group tackles each of the following areas in turn:

- Making quick fixes around the house - such as substituting a clothesline for a clothes dryer and installing low-flow shower heads, setting the refrigerator at 38-40 degrees F, and setting the thermostat at 68 degrees F, etc.
- Changing habits - such as eating one more vegetarian meal a week or making one more errand on a bike
- Making big-ticket upgrades - such as replacing old appliances with more energy-efficient ones or adding solar hot water or solar panels.

Each household chooses which "recipes" work best for their own situation. The sessions can be great fun with lively discussions and useful exchanges of ideas as we learn from each other.

One participant wrote, "One of the best parts of the class was the chance to brainstorm and problem-solve the categories in the book with neighbors who knew more than I did. In our group of 8, we discussed low-flow toilets, drying racks, compact fluorescent light bulbs, rainwater catchments basins, solatubes, insulation around doors and windows, plugging into power strips to be sure all items are turned off, maintaining correct tire pressure on automobiles to improve MPG, setting the water heater temperature to 'off' or 'pilot' when traveling away from home, using carbon footprint calculators online, purchasing air travel carbon offsets including donating to local groups such as Tree Davis, and many other practical topics. I was surprised at how much I learned in this class - even after living in Davis for many years and absorbing the local lore

about living lighter on the land."

Making significant changes is surprisingly easy. Even the second time I took the class, I managed to shed another 5,025 pounds a year just by reducing my shower water volume more with a device that allows me to turn down the water flow when I shampoo or soap up, buying suitable rain gear so I could consistently ride my bike more during the winter, installing new insulation around two drafty doors, scheduling regular air-pressure checks for my car tires, and making a habit of leaving a few minutes early so I can drive 55mph on the freeway when it's safe.

I plan to take this practical class again because having others to brainstorm with helps me to identify actions I can take, and a little peer pressure encourages me to make changes and adopt new habits. My teammates offered creative ideas I never would have thought of myself, including one of my next projects: to put in a water barrel under the rain gutters. I want the Low Carbon Diet to become my way of life. Fortunately, my team wants to reunite occasionally just to make sure we're all staying on course.

Perhaps most important, meeting with a Low Carbon Diet team has reassured me that I am not alone in fearing for our planet as the effects of climate change progress. For me it is essential to be with others committed to doing what we can to reduce our own energy use and set an example for others. I was uplifted by the sincerity of my group and grateful for our open discussion of the urgency of our actions. It is good to be part of the Low Carbon Diet Community.

To meet the Davis Climate Action and Adaptation Plan goals, each year 15% of Davis households will need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 10%. This means we must find practical, cost effective ways to help 3,750 households per year lower their carbon footprint. Our combined efforts can move Davis toward the goal of being carbon neutral by 2050. To join a team in the 2011, watch for forthcoming announcements from Cool Davis Initiative.

The Low Carbon Diet book is available at the Avid Reader at a 20% discount. It can be followed by an individual family as well as a team of households.

Did you know....

Over 75% of greenhouse gas emissions in Davis are produced by local citizens. If the city is to meet its Kyoto Protocol goals by 2012, 75-85% of city households need to go on the Low Carbon Diet. Our team will be among the first to participate in the City's efforts to scale up the program. You can find out more at the city's Low Carbon Diet website: <http://cityofdavis.org/pgs/lowcarbondiet>. **Continued on next page...**

To help us focus on what individuals and households can do, we will use David Gershon's book: *Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds*, which tells how to determine an eco-footprint and gives 24 easy-to-follow recipes for reducing emissions. Each household chooses which recipes work best for them to implement. The sessions can be great fun: with lively discussions and useful exchanges of ideas – as we learn from each other.

Accept the Low Carbon Diet Challenge! To meet the Davis Climate Action Plan goals, each year 15% of Davis households will need to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 10%. This means we must find practical, cost effective ways to help 3,750 households per year lower their carbon footprint. Learn how at the 10-10-10 Festival.

- Making quick fixes around the house - such as substituting a clothesline & low-flow shower head.
- Changing habits - such as eating one more vegetarian meal a week or making one more errand on a bike.
- Making big-ticket upgrades - such as replacing old appliances with more energy-efficient ones or adding solar hot water or solar panels.

Whether you join a Low Carbon Diet team, read David Gershon's *Low Carbon Diet* book (20% off at the Avid Reader) on your own, or simply measure your carbon footprint at www.cooldavis.org and take action (<http://cityofdavis.org/cdd/sustainability/>), our combined efforts can move Davis toward the goal of being carbon neutral by 2050.

Ideas for letters to the editor:

- Compare Low Carbon Diet to the community book (everybody reads the book and talks about it, lots of discussions happen, it unifies the whole city and campus, etc.) Could next year's book be something that draws us together on climate change? (The Weather Makers?)
- Fun, relaxing, practical, inspiring, for your children, meet your neighbors, make friends, share your fears and grief, find hope, share food, build community, ongoing meetings, a way of life
- Family connection
- For apartment dwellers

Below is a letter sent to the Davis Enterprise in 2009.



November 23, 2009

Davis Enterprise
Dear Editor,

I just completed the Low Carbon Diet class in a small neighborhood group in Village Homes/Stonegate that is being offered through the City of Davis. What a refreshing, creative way for Davisites to take a look at their energy usage and household habits in order to get a clearer sense of their personal connection to climate change. The class, competently led by Lynne Nittler, followed the book called "*Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5000 pounds*", which is available at a discounted price of \$12 at Avid Reader.

One of the best parts of the class was the chance to brainstorm and problem-solve the categories in the book with like-minded neighbors. In our group of 8, we discussed low-flow toilets, drying racks, compact fluorescent light-bulbs, rainwater catchment basins, solatubes,

insulation around doors and windows, maintaining correct tire pressure on automobiles to improve MPG, setting the water heater temperature to 'off' or 'pilot' when traveling away from home, using carbon footprint calculators online, purchasing air travel carbon offsets, and many other practical topics. I was surprised at how much I learned in this class - even after living in Davis for many years and absorbing the local lore about living lighter on the land.

If you haven't had a chance to join a Low Carbon Diet group, you can do so online at: <http://cityofdavis.org/pgs/lowcarbondiet/index.cfm> Check it out! We owe kudos to local environmental activists Lynne Nittler and Judy Moores for bringing this program to the attention of the City of Davis' sustainability coordinator, Mitch Sear.

Sincerely,

Susan Steinbach



**Commercial Food Waste
Diversion Program
By Shar Katz**

About three years ago, the City of Davis was putting much effort into teaching residents to compost in their backyard. Shar thought... "Why don't we get a program going for commercial food waste? We restaurants, as well as many institutional establishments and grocery stores, produce a lot of food waste and we have no other option than to throw it away. It seems to me that the City of Davis, would gain great success in reducing our carbon footprint if we businesses partnered together with the City and Davis Waste Removal to get such a program in the works." Well change takes time and patience, and not everyone was on board at the time. So over the past three years, Shar started to dive into the waste stream and began to learn how to make a Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program happen.

Fast forward to early Spring of 2010, the timing was right, and Shar began again to make many phone calls and successfully brought together the City of Davis Public Works and Davis Waste Removal to initiate the development of a Commercial Food Waste Diversion program. Along the way, Shar says, "I have made so many great connections with many incredible folks who, like me, really want this to happen. Including CDI, the COOL Davis Initiative, the Davis Farmer's Market, and many others, "The support of this mission by many is very inspiring." -Shar

In October 2010, Shar forged a pre pilot and diverted food and compostable

waste at Caffé Italia with Davis Waste Removal. They gathered the necessary data to begin working out the logistics to get this sort of a program going. Shar states, "I knew it could be done, and our staff was completely onboard and did a great job. I'm thrilled with their efforts"

Shar has been working with City Public Works in signage, and training materials, to make the change easy for businesses to implement the Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program into their everyday operations. A good partnership with Davis Waste Removal and the City of Davis is imperative to make this whole thing work, to keep it sustaining. Our industry produces a lot of food waste, that ends up in the landfill creating methane. When instead, it could be diverted to a bio digester or composting facility, where it will be turned into valuable energy and compost. That nutrient rich compost can then be put back into our farmer's fields saving water and completing a circle for good food. We will see a dramatic improvement in the City of Davis' effort to reduce our carbon footprint when we get this mission of a Commercial Food Waste Diversion Program realized. This has been a year of progress and Shar cannot wait to get others involved through the outreach program that is in the works for 2011.

**Davis Waste Removal offers free
electronic recycling**



Davis residents can clean out their unwanted electronics at a free electronics recycling event on Jan. 15, courtesy of Davis Waste Removal and the City of Davis. The event will take place rain or shine 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Davis Waste Removal office, 2727 Second Street, Davis. Davis Waste Removal will partner with California Electronic Asset Recovery, recognized for its efficient recycling program, to recycle the electronics and give the proceeds to Davis Community Meals. The nonprofit helps people who are homeless or low-income rebuild their lives. Davis Waste Removal serves the waste and recycling needs of the City of Davis and other customers. Services include residential and commercial garbage pick-up, recycling, green waste, street sweeping and debris box services. For more information, visit www.dwrco.com or (530) 756-4646.

- Date: Saturday, January 15, 2011
- Time: 9:00am
- Location: Davis
- Type of event: Fund-raiser

For more information call, (530) 756-4646 or visit www.dwrco.com

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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.