
Chapter 7. Materials, Solid Waste and Recycling

BACKGROUND

Solid waste collection, recycling services, yard material collection and street sweeping are provided by Davis Waste Removal, under contract to the City. All non-recyclable waste generated by the City is disposed at the Yolo County Central Landfill, in the northeast portion of the Planning Area. The landfill site consists of 770 acres and has remaining capacity for 20 to 30 years, depending on the amount of garbage received. The landfill currently receives approximately 700 tons per day of solid waste.

Pursuant to State Assembly Bill 939, all cities and counties in the state had to divert 25 percent of their solid waste from landfills by 1995, and will be required to divert 50 percent by 2000. The City's recycling program has the distinction of being one of the oldest and most comprehensive in California, with programs for homes, apartments and businesses. In 1989, the city diverted 18.7 percent of the waste it generated; in 1990 almost 26 percent; and in 1995 over 37 percent. Materials recycled include mixed paper, corrugated cardboard, glass, aluminum and steel cans, some kinds of plastic and yard material. Used motor oil and some scrap metals are also accepted at Davis Waste Removal. Household hazardous wastes may be turned in at periodic collection events. Eligible businesses can participate in a small quantity generator program for hazardous waste disposal at reduced costs.

GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

GOAL MAT 1. Enhance the quality of the environment by conserving resources and minimizing waste by reducing, reusing, recycling, and re-buying.

Policy MAT 1.1 Promote reduced consumption of non-renewable resources.

Standards

- a. Coordinate with Yolo County Central Landfill to encourage the reuse of materials deposited at the land fill.
- b. Encourage reuse of refillable bottles.

Actions

- c. Continue to support the city-wide recycling system including service to apartments and businesses, and strive for annual reductions in commercial and industrial waste disposal.
- d. Provide attractive well-designed trash receptacles with provision for recyclable materials in appropriate areas in public areas.
- e. Implement State laws on solid waste reduction and recycling. Where feasible take action to further recycling efforts that are not included in state law.
- f. Encourage the development of businesses which buy and sell re-used materials, including a materials exchange center.
- g. Revise yard waste collection policies so that lawn clippings are no longer placed in plastic bags.
- h. Continue to implement the City-wide recycling/composting program for yard debris and plant materials.
- i. Encourage and support recycling awareness with city information and activity days.
- j. Support a school curriculum on waste, waste reduction and recycling.
- k. Encourage the continuation of field trips to the DWR recycling center.
- l. Encourage the School District to support recycling at school sites with easily accessible recycling bins.
- m. Assist businesses in their waste reduction efforts by conducting waste audits.
- n. Study the feasibility of expanding the plastic recycling program.
- o. Study the feasibility of variable can rates for garbage collection.
- p. Develop a list of stores selling recycled products for distribution to City residents.
- q. Continue to implement the Source Reduction and Recycling Element and the Household Hazardous Waste Element.

- r. Purchase recycled products whenever sufficient quantities are readily available and meet City specifications.
- s. Encourage U.C. Davis and the Davis Joint Unified School District to use recycled products.

GOAL MAT 2. Provide adequate waste disposal capacity for Davis.

Policy MAT 2.1 Plan for the long-term waste disposal needs of Davis.

Actions

- a. Discourage, where feasible, the import of waste materials into the city or county. Work with Yolo County to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of accepting waste materials from outside of the county at the county land fill.
- b. Track capacity at existing landfills.
- c. Coordinate with the County to identify new landfill sites as needed.
- d. Study the feasibility of creating a joint powers authority for waste disposal.

