

DavisRISE organizes school recycling for city's Carbon Diet

Special to The Enterprise
Published: October 6, 2009

DavisRISE efforts have reduced school solid waste by 50 percent since 1999 and established a "green" way of thinking in Davis schools.

Leaders of DavisRISE, which stands for Recycling is Simply Elementary, continue to explore ways to improve their schools' recycling rates.

The program is a proven success story of reducing and recycling in the schools, saving Davis Joint Unified School District thousands of dollars, a news release said. The effort is supported by several partners: Davis Farm to School Connection, DJUSD, city of Davis, Green Schools, Davis Waste Removal, RCC Group LLC and the Davis Farmers' Market. Parents help by packing lunches with recyclable and reusable materials. Additionally, the school district is exploring recyclable containers for use in school lunches.

Dorothy Peterson, the district's DavisRISE coordinator, is always looking for meaningful ways to connect each student's environment to life-long learning. She encourages the schools to join with the city of Davis' "5,000-pound Carbon Diet Challenge" that begins Monday. For five weeks, RISE leaders will document students' habits of diversion, recycling and reusing as well as collecting "rigid plastics" (containers marked with numbers greater than 1 and 2) that would normally go into the school's garbage.

Each DavisRISE school leader will develop a way to get the rigid plastics to DWR where they will be weighed to document the effect this could make on reducing waste at the landfill as well as the school site. Participating schools will create their own campaigns and methods of collecting and documenting until Nov. 16. Charts and other documentation will provide data to be counted in the city's overall 5,000-pound challenge.

Research has shown that the average U.S household produces about 4.5 pounds of solid waste per day. Here are some tips to reduce waste:

* Recycle paper. Parents can go even further by reducing junk mail. A request can be made online at http://www.DirectMail.com/Junk_Mail, or write to DirectMail.com, National Do Not Mail Registry, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 to have names removed from mailing lists.

* Examine the number on the bottom of plastic bottles and other containers. Recycle those with Nos. 1 and 2 using curbside bins provided by DWR.

* Take the higher numbered plastics (Nos. 3, 5 and 6) — that can't be recycled using curbside containers — to dump in the large, clearly marked bin at Davis Waste Removal, 2727 Second St.

To learn more about DavisRISE, go to <http://www.davisrise.org>. Parents are encouraged to contact their school's DavisRISE leader to help with campus efforts.

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