



nourishing the cycle ~ from earth to table

Davis Secondary Schools to Launch Recycling Competition Today

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Today Davis Farm to School Connection announced the launch of a competition between Davis secondary school sites to see which school can recycle the most bottles and cans. This competition is being initiated due to the arrival of 50 new clear-stream recycling containers to Harper, Emerson, and Holmes Junior Highs and Davis Senior High School. The Davis Recycling is Simply Elementary (Davis RISE) program, the recycling program of the Davis Farm to School Connection, was one of five programs in California, and one of 85 out of a total of 1,400 applicants nationally, to be awarded a grant to support recycling efforts.

To celebrate the arrival of these new recycle bins, DavisRISE and the school district's new Green Schools Initiative have joined together to begin the first annual "We are Greater Green" competition between the four secondary school sites. The school that weighs in with the highest volume of recycled glass, plastic, and aluminum at the end of the school year will win the first "We are Greater Green" perpetual trophy. This award will allow students, environmental groups, and DavisRISE leaders to illustrate the impact of keeping bottles and cans out of the landfill. It also allows students to raise money from the recyclables they redeem, and showcase the student leadership necessary to make this program work.

Recipients of the grant were chosen by the National Recycling Coalition based on a number of criteria, including where recycling bins are most likely to have the most impact, the ability of recipients to sustain their program in the future, and the intention to support collection programs with recycling education and promotion. The Recycling Bin Grant Program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company and is designed to help communities jump-start or expand their recycling programs, and to encourage people to make recycling a habit in their daily lives.

The DavisRISE program began nine years ago in partnership with the Davis Joint Unified School District and Davis Waste Removal (DWR). Rey Reyes, Director of

Operations for the school district, said, “Davis Waste Removal has provided key support for not only the recycling programs, but for all of the school district’s waste management efforts.” Waste reduction through recycling is one of four goals outlined in an agreement between The Davis Farm to School Connection and the school district which governs the partnership.

Waste diversion through recycling and composting has reduced solid waste disposal costs for the school district by over 50% for the elementary schools. Recycling coordinators at each school site are paid a stipend that comes out of these saved funds. John Mott-Smith, a member of the school district’s Green Schools Initiative, said, “I don’t know of another school based recycling program that is as effective as DavisRISE, and this is exactly the kind of effort that the Green Schools Initiative is all about.”

Previous to the award of this grant, only the elementary schools had a sufficient number of designated bins for recycling on campus. “The Junior Highs and High School had begun a grass roots effort to recycle,” said Davis Farm to School Connection president Dorothy Peterson, “but have had only a few bins, and therefore recycling efforts have not been fully realized. “This grant helps us to meet one of our goals for the secondary schools.” According to Amy Schulte, the Ag Education teacher at Davis Senior High School, “these new bins will provide the sustainable infrastructure to capitalize on the strong student driven effort to recycle on secondary campuses”. In addition, the clear-stream design will help students and visitors differentiate recycle from trash bins. Schulte is leading the program at Davis High along with her students.

For more information on Davis Farm to School Connection, a project of the Davis Farmer’s Market Foundation, go to www.davisfarmtoschool.org or call (530) 219-5859. Volunteers are welcome at its monthly steering committee meeting.