



RICHARD TSAI/COURTESY PHOTO

Dean Newberry, left, chairman of the city of Davis Natural Resources Commission, and John Geisler of Davis Waste Removal show off one of the 65-gallon carts that Davis businesses will use to collect food scraps for composting.

Local businesses to compost scraps

SPECIAL TO THE ENTERPRISE

Fifteen Davis businesses will begin collecting their food scraps for composting starting Monday.

At the request of local businesses and to move forward with the city's environmental and sustainability goals, the city of Davis Recycling Program and Davis Waste Removal are starting a commercial food scrap collection pilot program.

Davis businesses that participate will put all of the plate scrapings, fruit and vegetable trimmings, coffee grinds and filters, tea bags and food-soiled paper that they produce in carts provided by DWR. The waste removal company will empty the carts twice a week (Mondays and Fridays) and bring the materials to a composting facility.

Pilot participants are Caffé Italia, Dos Coyotes (both Davis locations), Davis Farmers Market, Davis Food Co-op, The Mustard Seed, Hallmark Inn, Seasons Restaurant, Sutter Davis Hospital, Nugget Market (South Davis), Davis Joint Unified School District Student Nutrition Services, Blue Oak Energy, Natural Food Works/Farmers Kitchen Café, Delta of Venus and Ciocolat.

"These businesses have really stepped up to the plate as waste reduction leaders and we applaud their efforts," said Jennifer Gilbert, the city's conservation coordinator.

DWR will deliver the food scrap collection carts this week and will start the pickups on Monday. The pilot program will end Dec. 31, after which the city and DWR will assess whether to continue the effort.

"Businesses, primarily restaurants, are the biggest generators of organic

waste in the city of Davis," said Dean Newberry, who chairs the city's Natural Resources Commission. "This commercial organic waste diversion pilot project is an important step toward meeting our environmental goals."

The project is moving forward at the request of several local restaurants and in anticipation of a potential state-mandated waste diversion rate of 75 percent.

"It's not too late for more businesses to participate in the pilot," Gilbert says. "The more businesses we get to collect food scraps, the better."

Interested businesses should call DWR at (530) 756-4646 as soon as possible to sign a subscription card and be enrolled in the pilot, Gilbert says. The 65-gallon food scraps carts that DWR will deliver to pilot participants will cost the same as a regular trash cart.

The pilot program is for businesses only. Residents are encouraged to compost their food scraps via backyard composting. To help residents in this endeavor, the city offers a year-round composting correspondence course as well as seasonal composting classes.

The next series of classes will be offered in the fall. To register, call the Public Works Department at (530) 757-5686 or email pwweb@cityofdavis.org.

For more information about the commercial food scrap collection pilot, contact Gilbert at (530) 757-5688 or jgilbert@cityofdavis.org or visit cityofdavis.org/pw. Click on the link for the program to access posters, a training video and a guide on setting up a business food scrap collection program.