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June 12, 2012

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Youth Award Winner Interview Contact: Theo Goujon 505-570-0538 cell (father, Herve Goujon)

New Mexico Recycling Coalition Announces Outstanding Recyclers of 2012

New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC at www.recyclenewmexico.com) is pleased to announce the 2012 Recycling Awards winners. Since 2002 NMRC has recognized individuals, businesses and communities that work to reduce waste and support recycling and composting in New Mexico. 2012 Award Winners include:

- **Steve Glass, Retired Ciudad SW Conservation District**, E. Gifford Stack Lifetime Achievement Award
- **Joseph Ellis, Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority**, Recycler of the year
- **Placitas Recycling Association**, Community Recycler of the Year
- **Tom Lutterman & the PNM Ruidoso Service Center**, Large Business Recycler of the Year
- **Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity ReStore**, NonProfit Recycler of the Year
- **Hyatt Regency Tamaya & Hyatt Regency Albuquerque**, Organics Recycler of the Year
- **Recycle Cibola!**, Recycling Activist Group of the Year
- **Mayfield High School National Honor Society (Las Cruces)**, Youth Community Recycler Group of the Year
- **Wood U Recycle**, Recycling Processor of the Year
- **Walatowa Greenstars**, Youth Recycler Activist Group of the Year
- **Theo Goujon of Santa Fe County**, Youth Recycler of the Year

English Bird, Executive Director of New Mexico Recycling Coalition, notes, "NMRC is proud to honor this diverse group of recyclers. The award winners are role models for us all, demonstrating the recycling passion that we are thrilled to recognize! Recycling continues to be one of the easiest ways to help our environment, create jobs and save money."

Tom Lutterman: Under Tom's guidance, the Ruidoso Service Center has reduced their solid waste from a 30-yard container emptied 4 to 6 times a year... to a 10-yard container emptied only once a year! The Ruidoso Construction Center recycled 14.1 tons consisting of 17 different materials during 2011, while disposing of only 1.5 tons in the dumpster. This is a diversion rate of more than 90%! In addition, Tom and his program have participated in community recycling programs such as fluorescent lamp pick-ups and Christmas Tree recycling. Ruidoso has been the top PNM facility in terms of diversion rate and number of waste streams recycled for the past two years. They actively seek a zero waste culture.

Joseph Ellis: Joseph has led the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority from an entity that had little recycling 10 years ago to a cutting edge rural recycling region. He has taken careful steps with the Authority, adding only sustainable programs that made economic sense. Not only does he manage a landfill, but he also has added recycling and diversion programs for scrap metal, tires, mortality composting, mulch, septage composting, lead-acid batteries, motor oil and most recently has become one of NM's new household material recycling hubs. Serving a region of 16,000 in Torrance County, Joseph has worked hard to build strong, creative, pioneering recycling programs in an incredibly rural area. In the development of NMRC's hub and spoke project, Joseph has provided insight and guidance to the rural NM challenges and has helped shape the program. Joseph has also been a leader in the recycling and solid waste field, having served on both NMRC's and NM Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) boards. He served as NMRC board president from 2005-2006.

Theo Goujon: Theo is a 12-year-old student at the Eldorado Community School in Santa Fe County who became upset at the waste created by single-use water bottles and decided to take action. Theo raised funds from local businesses, designed a stainless steel water bottle with a reuse logo, speaks to local classrooms about the impacts of our throw-away culture, and distributes his bottles free to students (and sells them to adults). In short, Theo is a one-kid whirlwind for reuse and conservation of Earth's resources. He has demonstrated that reuse is one of the best forms of recycling.

Learn more about the other winners at http://www.recyclenewmexico.com/2012_award_winners.htm

The Awards Ceremony will take place during NMRC's "Recycling: New Mexico's Expanding Landscape" conference at the Hotel Albuquerque (800 Rio Grande Blvd) in Albuquerque on Tuesday, June 19th from 4:30-6:00 pm. NMRC is a member-supported non-profit organization with the mission of leading New Mexico to **value waste as a resource**.

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