



## NEW MEXICO RECYCLING COALITION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Photo Opportunity & Media Advisory Torrance County-Estancia Valley Recycling Center Grand Opening

*Household Recycling Begins at County's New American Recovery & Reinvestment Act  
Funded Recycling Center*

**When:** Friday, October 28 2011 at 2:00 PM

**Where:** Estancia Valley Landfill, Head East on I-40 and take exit 203. Go east on the southern access road until the pavement ends. Take a right across a yellow cattle guard onto the county road that leads to the landfill. Landfill phone is 505-705-5101.

**Why:** Join U.S. Congressman Martin Heinrich, Torrance County Commissioners, Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, the New Mexico Environment Department: Solid Waste Bureau and the New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) to mark the grand opening of the \$309,820 recycling processing facility. Additionally, the project will fund collection containers to be placed at several convenient locations to include the Southern, Northern, Central and Indian Hills drop-off centers.

**What Else:** The recycling center is funded from a \$309,820 grant Torrance County received in late 2010 from the New Mexico Recycling Coalition as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program ("stimulus funds"). The funding will support recycling through the **hub and spoke model** – a solid waste management system with a centralized processing facility (hub) providing services to smaller surrounding communities (spokes).

NMRC Technical Projects Director Justin Stockdale explains, "These recycling hubs will capitalize on economies of scales and create an efficient method to collect and process recyclables in rural regions of the state. Recycling benefits communities in the long-run with increased diversion and revenue generating opportunities."

The processing facility will enable the identified locations in the Estancia Valley to accept cardboard, mixed paper, plastic #1 bottles, plastic #2 bottles, aluminum cans and tin cans. Expansion to future drop-offs for the collection of these items is expected. The addition of the recycling center is expected to support 3 new jobs, as well as sustain existing jobs at the solid waste authority. As more recycling is brought in for processing, more jobs may be added. A local outreach and education campaign will be launched to encourage strong community participation in the program.

The project is one of several similar NMRC projects occurring around the state. Deming and Otero County received similar grant funding to add recycling collection and processing, with their projects completing by the end of the year.

The New Mexico Recycling Coalition is a member-supported, nonprofit organization with the mission of leading New Mexico to **value waste as a resource**.

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