



NEW MEXICO RECYCLING COALITION

PO Box 24364, Santa Fe, NM 87502
505-983-4470



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sarah Pierpont (505) 603-0558

New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) Awards More than Half a Million Dollars to Fund Rural Recycling Improvements

2012 Recipients include Angel Fire, Cibola County, Las Vegas, Luna County, Otero County, Raton, Silver City and Truth or Consequences

Santa Fe – Recycling continues to improve in the State of New Mexico. Thanks to a \$590,303 grant from the Department of Energy as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (“stimulus funds”) New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) aims to improve existing small-scale recycling centers and to create more rural recycling access across the Land of Enchantment. Funding is being spent to 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).

Eight awardees will receive funding for a variety of recycling equipment to either collect recyclable materials or to improve existing processing facilities, with technical assistance provided by NMRC. Grantees have agreed to provide long-term operational and financial commitment to ensure project sustainability.

The hub improvement grants awarded to Silver City, Las Vegas, Raton and Truth or Consequences will allow these communities to increase the efficiency of their existing recycling center. Spoke collection equipment awards made to Angel Fire, Cibola County, Luna County and Otero County will increase access to recycling for rural and underserved communities.

Communities that serve as recycling hubs are in a unique position to provide recycling processing for an entire region and to retain some of the revenues brought in by the sale of the recycled material to assist in covering operational costs. Spoke communities see the benefit of reducing their solid waste costs with less material heading to the landfill.

"Investments from stimulus funds have already improved recycling in New Mexico with six new recycling hubs and more than thirty additional spoke drop-off locations," explains English Bird, NMRC Executive Director. "We are seeing a radical improvement in recycling processing capability in our state as well as access to recycling for our citizens. These grants will further recycling capability and access."

Recycling is a proven method of saving energy by requiring up to 90% less energy to create materials from a recycled source than from virgin materials. Recycling is also an economic development tool as well as an environmental tool; on a per-ton basis, sorting and processing recyclables sustains 5-10 times more jobs than landfilling (Institute for Local Self Reliance).

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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Attached photo: An example of the type of recycling collection container that will be funded.