



Case Study:

Swap Shop & HHW Re-Use

The Pueblo of Santa Ana is home to approximately 725 residents and is located roughly 20 miles north of Albuquerque. The Pueblo's Department of Natural Resources developed a Resource Recovery and Recycling Park at the existing solid waste transfer station. This enables community members to drop off recyclable or re-usable items and divert these items away from typical land filling.

The simple shed for the building was constructed as part of the transfer station's upgrade. It has a concrete pad for the floor, basic shelving and a corrugated roof. High volume items include children's toys, baby items, children's bicycles, house wares and clothing. A container from Big Brothers, Big Sisters collects materials specifically for that charity to re-sell.



a letter to all visitors asking for their assistance to avoid these issues. Santa Ana noticed that having a well-trained staff person onsite to educate the public about what can and cannot be dropped off and to monitor the site has significantly helped with the above challenges. They have also installed a camera system for when the attendant is offsite and have posted signage letting visitors know they are on camera.

Regulation: According to the New Mexico Environment Department: Solid Waste Bureau (NMED) a reuse area is acceptable as part of a transfer or drop-off station. A community that adds this component to their drop-off should ensure that their permit reflects this.

Resources

Create a partnership with your local chapter of Goodwill Industries of New Mexico or Big Brothers Big Sisters to accept items that are not swapped at your reuse area. Goodwill 505-881-6401 and Big Brothers 505-837-9223

NMED Guidance on Rules Regarding Reuse Areas: Tim Gray with NM Environment Department: Solid Waste Bureau, 505-827-0129

Oversight: Having a staffed transfer or drop-off station works best with a reuse area. Education about types of material and keeping the area neat are important. Santa Ana's swap shop has faced problems including deposit of items that are broken, dirty, mouse infested or pose a health hazard being dropped in their Swap Shop.

They addressed this by providing

Household Hazardous Waste: The drop-off also houses a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off area for such items as paints, stains, pesticides, motor oil and other hazardous materials. This area was designed so that re-usable items such as the paints, pesticides, and other cleaners are kept separate, stored in spill-proof pans and are available for the taking by other patrons. Just so the packaging clearly details these items and they are not corroded or overflowing, this is an acceptable reuse practice.

If You Provide a HHW Exchange Area Please Follow These Steps:

- Let NMED know about your intentions so your operations plan can be updated.
- Provide a covered and lined area for the material that is in a controlled area of the drop-off station ensuring there is constant oversight of the materials.
- Have all visitors dropping off HHW materials sign a standard waiver (a sample can be provided by NMED). These records are required for NMED inspections and are used to track the material.
- Track materials by dating when received. All materials older than a year must be properly recycled. Ensure proper safety gear is at the drop-off in case of a spill or accident.
- Use best judgment on what HHW materials are available for public exchange. Paints and stains are exchangeable. Unopened pesticides or herbicides with clear labels are a viable exchange option. Anything extremely hazardous and open should be properly handled and recycled rather than exchanged.
- Tribes do not fall under NMED regulation in regard to management of HHW, but these outlined steps for tribal entities can be considered best practices.



Future: Santa Ana currently accepts construction materials and is learning that much of the wood placed in the area is re-usable. They are considering expanding their re-use area to include a Construction Material Re-use Exchange area.

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