



PO Box 24364 • Santa Fe, NM • 87502 • 575-224-2630

November 11, 2014

For Immediate Release

Contact: English Bird, NMRC, 505-660-9934

New Mexico Recycling Coalition Announces Food Waste Management Best Practices Guide

Santa Fe – In an effort to bring greater awareness around the subject of food waste and to provide resources to food-handling entities so they may wisely manage this material for reduction, donation, animal feed and for composting, the New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) has compiled best practices for these entities to use to increase the diversion of this material. The guide, “Managing Food Waste in New Mexico” is available online at www.recyclenewmexico.com/foodwaste.htm, along with other links and resources. Print copies are available as well upon request.

Food waste is the single largest type of material entering our landfills. From production to plate 40% of food is wasted, yet nearly 15% of Americans don’t know where their next meal will come from (USDA). With proper management, food waste can be channeled into the desired diversion hierarchy to first source reduce, then feed people, feed animals and collect for compost to enrich soils and therefore grow more food.

“In the creation of this resource, NMRC worked with health and food safety inspection departments, state and federal animal feed regulatory agencies, feeding agency partners, associations that work with food-handling entities, businesses with strong food diversion programs, composters and food waste collection providers to ensure these resources truly reflect best practices in all of these arenas,” explained English Bird, NMRC Executive Director.

Any business or entity that wishes to reduce their food waste can sign up for the EPA Food Recovery Challenge by going to www.epa.gov/foodrecoverychallenge.

This project has been supported through a generous grant from The Walmart Foundation’s State Giving Program. Food-handling entities can contact NMRC or visit the online resources to receive further assistance in looking at opportunities to reduce the waste stream.

New Mexico Recycling Coalition is a non-profit member-supported organization with the mission of leading New Mexico to value waste as a resource. The organization serves as a recycling advocate working with a diverse group of stakeholders, communities, businesses, schools and grassroots activists to help build sustainable and efficient recycling programs. To learn more, visit www.recyclenewmexico.com.

###