**Diversion Program of the Year: South Central Solid Waste Authority**

The Diversion Program of the Year goes to South Central Solid Waste Authority. Since 2009, the year they launched their curbside recycling program, the Authority has been setting a strong example for recycling excellence. The awards committee recognized that the Authority continues this trend by implementing new programs, adding services, educating residents, focusing on schools and being willing to serve as a leader and role-model in the state. They have diverted over 40,400 tons of household recyclables since 2011.

Accomplishments include a sustainable glass program that has diverted over 600 tons from the waste stream and created a product that is beneficially used by the community (you’ll hear more about this later this afternoon) and launching a community tire shredding program that diverted over 60,000 lbs of shredded tires from the waste stream to the Dona Ana County International Jetport for beneficial use on their airfield. Additionally, the Solid Waste Authority hosts community litter clean ups and has expanded their school program to include all 3 school districts in Dona Ana County.

One of SCSWA’s key strengths is their process of partnering with other agencies, building a consensus, and continuing to set - and accomplish! - new goals. SCSWA partners with the NMED Solid Waste Bureau, NMED Health and Safety Bureau, NMRC, SWANA, Dona Ana County, City of Las Cruces, City of Tor C, Sunland Park and Anthony.

SCSWA has achieved a 24% Diversion Rate for the past 6 years, hosted over 50 community clean up events each year and provides over 32,000 households with curbside recycling, over 250 business with commercial recycling and over 40 school campuses with single stream recycling. They also provide access to recycling at 8 County Collection Centers to serve Dona Ana County residents.

To top it all off in 2016 they received the prestigious OSHA Steps to Safety Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) for their proactive culture of safety. And they aren’t stopping, they recently collaborated with the City of Las Cruces to host the first Zero Waste Event in Las Cruces. Wow!

Congratulations, SCSWA and thank you for your ongoing leadership in diversion! Accepting the award on behalf of SCSWA is Patrick Peck, the Solid Waste Authority Manager.