Recycling Programs in New Mexico

Presented to the CARE Conference, April 27, 2010 by English Bird, New Mexico Recycling Coalition
State of Recycling in New Mexico

New Mexico
- 1.9 million people - 36th
- 5th largest state in size - 121,355 square miles
- 15 people per square mile
- 106 rural communities, 120 total
- Annual state recycling grant funding = ~$175,000
- One end-market in state – OCC (Cardboard)
- Two sorting MRF’s in NM (modified single stream)
- 12.4% recycling rate

Challenges:
- Limited population = limited materials
- Low volumes difficult to market
- Knowledge gap
- Cost to start/run program
- Lack of political support
Who is the NM Recycling Coalition?

- Non-profit entity, 260 professional members
- Mission: To lead NM to value waste as a resource
- Education & advocacy top priorities
- Provide certification classes, host task forces
- Working to provide access to all New Mexicans
NMRC Programs

- New Mexico Recycling Awareness Month
- New Mexico Recycling Conference
- Rural Recycling Technical Assistance Program
- Professional Development & Support
- Organics, Construction & Hospitality Task Forces
- Public Information – Recycling Directory
- Legislative Advocacy
Construction & Demolition Recycling in NM

- Created a Construction Recycling Task Force in 2007 in response to demand – very little venues at time for wood, carpet, drywall
- Developed a NM C&D Recycling Guide to support the design/build community. Resources online & in searchable directory
- Worked with local business to develop recycling opportunities for construction materials and supported haulers working in field
Construction & Demolition Recycling in NM

- 2006 Governor Richardson Executive Order, all state buildings 15,000 sq ft+ LEED-Silver certified
- 2005 City of Albuquerque ordinance all buildings 5,000 sq ft+ LEED-Silver. Santa Fe considering. Albuquerque Public Schools will build all LEED as of 2007.
- Federal Buildings Large % of LEED projects
- 23 LEED-Certified Buildings with that many more in the building or certification process
Carpet Recycling in NM

- Green Planet Recycling, Frank Rivera in ABQ is part of the CARE reclamation network.
- Receives material from local retailers (Business Environments, Brock Interiors, Home Solutions) and home owners.
- Challenge: Nylon 6-6 and Polyester carpet not accepted for recycling yet from this region.
Improving Recycling in NM

- Rural Recycling Program, funded by USDA Rural Utilities. Partnership with NM Environment Dept.
- Support rural communities (10,000 or less pop.)
- Developed a strategic plan to build a hub & spoke network for recycling collection and processing
- Only 12 communities (out of 120+) have curbside recycling collection service
- Primary mode of capture is drop-off recycling
New Mexico Proposed Hub and Spokes
Improving Recycling in NM

- Working with communities to write state recycling grant proposals
- Have secured federal stimulus monies through NM Environment Department to build 3 hubs
- Will work to secure further funding for communities
- Providing the technical assistance critical component
- Evaluating premise of cooperative marketing entity
- Provide communities with Rural Recycling Resource Kit, Brochure Template, Customized Logo
Contact

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