

GALLUP POST OFFICE STARTS THE NEW YEAR RIGHT

Junk Mail Collection to Begin this Month at the Main Post Office

Collection of junk mail at the main USA Post Office on Aztec Avenue heralds a new day in solid waste diversion from our regional landfill.

If you have ever been to the post office and watched people sort their mail, you have seen how much junk mail is thrown into the trash. The trashed junk mail is mixed with other waste and then finds its way to the landfill. This costs you, the taxpayer, money. We are paying for junk mail to be hauled and put in a hole in the ground.

The McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council, in partnership with the local US Postal Service, will place recycling bins in the main post office to collect junk mail this month as a trial project. Junk mail (including envelopes, catalogs, magazines, white paper) can be recycled as Mixed Paper locally. When these items are kept clean and recycled they will save trash collection costs for the USPS and the Solid Waste Authority, in turn, is able to turn this trash into cash.

The bins, manufactured by *Recyclingbin*, are made from recycled materials. This company is committed to making products that are innovative, environmentally sensitive, intelligently designed, and sustainably manufactured in the USA (recyclingbin.com).

Look for the new bins when you are in the main post office. Use them appropriately for the disposal of your unwanted mail.

This project was endorsed by The Gallup Journey with a monetary donation. MCRC would like to thank the Journey's owners for their generosity and interest in raising community awareness about

the importance of recycling.

Of course the best thing, is to make less trash in the first place. Most junk mail is thrown out before it is even opened. It can be annoying, but worse, it is a waste. It takes 100 million trees to create all the junk mail in the United States in one year. Junk mail uses as much energy as three million cars.

How can you change this junk mail scenario? Take the time to become more eco-friendly and stop the junk mail before it gets to your mailbox by:

* One, ask to have your name removed from mailing lists of companies or causes in which you have no interest. Look for the unsubscribe note on most mailers. Check out www.ehow.com/How to Request Removal from Junk Mail Lists and www.ehow.com/The Best Way to Get Off of Mailing Lists, among others.

*Two, you can help reduce junk mail and at the same time help the post office reduce their deficit by returning junk mail to the sender. Open every piece of junk mail received, and then send it back in the postage paid return envelope. Include some of the inserts from the original mailing. By returning the unwanted solicitation a message is sent to the company and the post office makes money on the returned piece.

For more information about where to recycle in Gallup-McKinley County visit the MCRC web site www.recyclegallup.org or call Gerald / Millie at 722-5142.