

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Clean Items

Recycling in Gallup isn't easy, but it can be done. The McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council has been spreading the word about the importance of *Reducing* our consumption of manufactured items, *Reusing* items as much as possible, and *Recycling* what we can in our community for over 20 years.

MCRC volunteers have learned how to recycle by visiting professional recyclers, by attending conferences and workshops, listening to webinars, reading trade magazines, partnering with solid waste management. We know how important it is to produce a clean product for the market. Buyers don't want our trash!

Gallup-McKinley County residents are recycling more, but *are we doing it better?*

REMEMBER: Only **CLEAN** items can be recycled. Only **CLEAN** items have value.

- *Rinse juice, milk, soda, and Gatorade bottles and cans before recycling.
- *All food residue must be removed from cans, aluminum foil and pans.
- *Pizza boxes, and the like, that are greasy cause contamination. Toss them.

Contaminates include materials that cannot be recycled in a designated bin.

- *Materials going into the bins should be loose. Remove plastic bags.
- *Removing plastic lids before recycling is a plus on several levels:
 - less stress on the baler during the baling process
 - plastic lids are a different type of plastic (not a #1 or a #2)
 - educators want your lids (all shapes, sizes, and varieties) for art projectsPlace your lids in a separate container and bring them to the Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center to be placed in the Teachers' Trailer by a Volunteer. Saturdays from 10am-2pm.

Recycling bins are not trash bins!

Think before you toss!

When in doubt, throw it out!

JUST SAY "NO" TO CONTAMINATION!