

THE VALUE OF RECYCLING SORTED & CLEAN ITEMS

re·cy·cle to treat or process (used or waste materials) so as to make suitable for [reuse](#), like recycling paper to save trees.

Recycling involves the collection of clean used or waste items, that are sorted by type and then baled for the market. Municipalities will recycle different items depending on their location and access to markets. The NWNM Solid Waste Authority at the Red Rocks Landfill in Thoreau is the deposition site for the recyclables collected from Gallup, Milan, Laguna, Zuni, and McKinley, Cibola counties. The SWA is part of a larger state network of centers for recycling. Each member's items are combined with others in the network to produce volume that will generate more income for all. However, the system fails and income generated is less for all if items are not clean and sorted properly.

Recycling bins are not trash bins!

China, the largest buyer of recycled materials in the world, put their proverbial foot down in April of 2013. China no longer wants to receive the world's garbage in the bales they are buying. Enhanced import inspections by Chinese customs officials led to severe recycling market limits for those shipping recovered paper and plastics. Regulations exist limiting the amount of contamination (non-recyclable items) in bales, but enforcement was lax. No longer! Under the new program "Operation Green Fence" almost every bale was inspected by customs officials. Almost a year later and the rigid enforcement by the Chinese government of regulations to reduce the amount of prohibitives in scrap bales has lessened, but not gone away. (Jerry Powell, Executive Editor, *Resource Recycling*, April 2013 and February 2014)

The message to the exporters of recycled materials worldwide is that garbage is not allowed. The message to us here in Gallup, New Mexico needs to be no garbage allowed. Recycling done right benefits everyone.

You have heard the saying, “One bad apple ruins the barrel.” Well, one container of chili cheese fries, half-eaten burger with ketchup and mustard, one milk shake cup, a piece of chewed gum, and the like, thrown in with recyclable items contaminates the lot. When recycling keep items sorted by type in separate bags or boxes until you get to the recycling bins at the Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center, Train Station, or the Gallup Transfer Station.

Review the items accepted and how they should be prepared in the information below. And remember – recycling saves money, energy, and natural resources if done right! Lets do it right Gallup-McKinley County!

For questions about **what and how to recycle** contact: Gerald / Millie (722-5142), Betsy at betsywindisch@yahoo.com, or Leigh at the MCRC web site recyclegallup.org.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING BINS

Monday / Wednesday / Friday

Cultural Center / Train Station	201 E. Historic Highway 66	8 am – Noon
Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center	701 Montoya Boulevard	Noon – 4 pm
Volunteers monitor on Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm		

ACCEPTING

Corrugated Cardboard (flatten as much as possible)

Tin/Steel Cans (rinsed/ labels okay)

Plastic #1 & #2 Bottles with Necks (rinsed / lids removed)

Mixed Paper (junk mail, catalogs, magazines, newspaper, white and colored paper).

Aluminum beverage cans, clean foil, and pie plates can be placed in a plastic grocery type bag or other) and placed in the Steel/Tin bin.

ALL OTHER MATERIALS SHOULD BE PLACED IN THE BINS LOOSE - OUT OF THE BAG OR CONTAINER. Then re-use the bag/container.