

## Recycling Updates - July 2015

\*This article is being written earlier than usual because of the departure of the Havemans to a more northern climate where family beckons. The McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council would like to thank Nate and Heather for their investment in our community and especially in all things that deal with the health of Mother Earth and her inhabitants.

\*At this writing the McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council and many citizens are hopeful for a green light by the City Council to take a positive move on curbside recycling. Any new venture can be cause for apprehension. If a curbside program is approved, it will be a learning curve for all of us, but isn't it time we step into the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

\*On Friday, June 5 MCRC offered a workshop on recycling for teachers and other educators, MCRC volunteers, and others in our community. The 22 participants were shown a film "The Rotten Truth" - the rotten truth about our garbage. Where does it go? Does it biodegrade, or not? This delightful kid and adult friendly film informs about the consequences of our throw-away attitude. A time for teachers to put into practice what they had learned was then provided through a series of questions and interactive responses. Through a presentation by John Shaw, Technical Manager with Bio-PAPPEL (Prewitt, NM) all were made aware of the importance of recycling corrugated cardboard for the manufacture of new, and how this company is aggressively green in its use of water and energy. Thank you Billy Moore, Executive Director - Solid Waste Authority for the generous support.

\*MCRC would like to thank the Citizens of Gallup and McKinley County for their patience and understanding during the recent halt to recycling at the local bin sites. The unfortunate breakdown of both trucks that haul the roll-off bins was unprecedented.

\*Summer is a time for outdoor events. Many of us who are pretty good about recycling when it is convenient (at home, work, school, church) often abandon our recycling will when the trash bin is easier to reach. When buying for an event consider what the end result will be for that item. In addition to using paper products that can decompose in a landfill or a compost pile, or buying plastic utensils that can be washed and reused (just add a little bleach to the water), another way to dispose of those Solo brand cups (found at every celebration or

event it seems) is through TerraCycle. Good news Mother Earth! Solo cups should no longer enter the waste stream, but instead be collected for the recycling stream via TerraCycle. In your leisure time this summer educate yourself about how to be a better citizen of Planet Earth. Go to [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) for a look at a company that recycles everything, well almost everything.

\*LIDS - Lids do not need to be removed from bottles before recycling. However, Saturday volunteers will accept any lids that are removed and bagged for teachers. These will be placed in the Recycling Depot for educators' use as counters, color sorting, mosaics, and other art and craft projects.

\*TRASH – For recycling to work, items must be clean. Food waste comingled with recyclables condemns the entire bag or box to being thrown away. Local and foreign markets are no longer accepting contaminated materials.

\*VOLUNTEER – Try something new this summer. As a family or with a couple of friends - New in town and want to meet new people -- MCRC needs volunteers to monitor the recycling bins at the Larry Brian Mitchell Recreation Center on Saturdays from 10 am-12 pm and 12-2 pm. Also seeking volunteers to help sort and organize items donated to the Recycling Depot.

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The McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council (MCRC) is a local non-profit working to increase recycling through education, community outreach, and partnership with local governments/agencies. Our mission includes promoting the 3 Rs-reduce, reuse, recycle.

MCRC meets the first Saturday of the month at 2pm at the Red Mesa Center. For more information about recycling in Gallup-McKinley County or how you can volunteer contact the McKinley Citizens' Recycling Council (MCRC) by calling 722-5142, through the web site [www.recyclegallup.org](http://www.recyclegallup.org), or send an e-mail to [betsywindisch@yahoo.com](mailto:betsywindisch@yahoo.com)