



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855
Fax (505) 827-2836



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

June 9, 2006
Immediate Release

Contact: Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Environment Department Reports on Curbside Recycling; Co-Sponsors Conference to Address Statewide Waste and Recycling

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) recently completed a survey of the 12 curbside recycling programs in New Mexico and found that more than 250,000 households, or roughly 1 in 3 New Mexicans, have access to curbside recycling. That means more than 1.3 million people, or 70 percent of the state's population, have access to the convenience of curbside recycling programs in the state.

“With the investments and recycling systems already in place, if the 12 curbside programs serving New Mexico's major population centers expand and strengthen their programs, New Mexico could easily see curbside recycling serving two-thirds of New Mexicans,” NMED Secretary Ron Curry said. “That would mean communities could keep more valuable resources out of the waste stream and prolong the life of their landfills while postponing the cost of opening new ones.”

Of those with access to curbside recycling, about 1 in 3 households, or about 87,000 households, actually use it. New Mexico recycles about 9 percent of its trash, up from about 7 percent in 2004, compared to the national recycling average of 35 percent.

NMED is co-sponsoring next week's “Managing Waste in Wide Open Spaces” conference that seeks to build and improve the state's recycling programs and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of waste management across the state. Other sponsors include local chapters of the National Recycling Coalition and the New Mexico chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America. The conference runs June 12-15 at the Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town and focuses on the challenges and solutions to waste management in low-population areas spread across large distances. National speakers include Pat DeRueda, who formerly headed up Waste Management of New Mexico and is now the national director of Waste Management Recycle America, the largest recycler in the nation.

Information on the conference can be found at the New Mexico Recycling Coalition Web site, www.recyclenewmexico.com. Information on NMED's recycling programs can be found at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swb/recycling.htm>.

For more information, contact Adam Rankin, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

###