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**State Environment Department Offers Low-Cost Waste Management Classes**

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"State Experts Talk Trash"

(Santa Fe, NM) – In an effort to help local governments and private businesses meet the waste-handling needs of communities and comply with state regulations, the New Mexico Environment Department is offering classes in recycling, composting, landfill operations and transfer station management.

The classes, designed primarily for individuals operating various solid waste management facilities, are also open to the general public. Attendees may become state-certified operators by successfully completing the class and meeting other requirements. Each class costs \$75 to \$200 and offers participants the opportunity to acquire the best and most current information on solid waste management practices. Course instructors include Environment Department staff, private sector business owners and operators, as well as other state agency staff. Each of the 3- and 5-day classes concludes with an exam. Attendees wanting certification must score at least 70 percent.

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This year's training schedule includes locations across the state:

<b>Compost Facility</b>	April 23-25	Ruidoso
	October 22-24	Albuquerque
<b>Landfill</b>	March 25-29	Clovis
	September 9-13	Farmington
<b>Recycling Facility</b>	July 9-11	Silver City
	December 10-12	Los Alamos
<b>Transfer Station</b>	May 14-16	Santa Fe
	November 5-7	Las Cruces

Classes are taught in cooperation with two non-profit solid waste organizations. The New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) sponsors the compost and recycling classes. Registration forms and specific class details are available by contacting Nancy Judd, Executive Director, NMRC, at (505) 983-4470, or through the NMRC web site at [www.nmrecycle.org](http://www.nmrecycle.org).

The Roadrunner chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) sponsors the landfill and transfer station classes. Registration forms and specific class details are available by contacting Ellen Smyth, Training Chairman, SWANA, at (505) 528-3800.

For more information contact Charles R. Ferguson, in the NMED Solid Waste Bureau Planning and Technical Assistance Program, at (505) 762-3728, or Cathy Tyson, NMED Communications Director, at (505) 827-0314.

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