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For Immediate Release

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**Environment Department Invites Business Owners to Learn How to Save Money
through Environmental Management**
NMED Will Host Workshop in Las Cruces on Green Zia Program

(Santa Fe, N.M.) The New Mexico Environment Department's Pollution Prevention Program will host a free Green Zia application writing workshop March 18 at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces to help business owners incorporate environmental management into their business plans.

NMED invites owners of small and large businesses to attend and learn how to join the program.

"Business owners can save thousands of dollars a year in disposal, electricity and other costs by implementing a few changes," said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. "Those changes can also help businesses reduce water or energy use and decrease greenhouse gas emissions."

NMED — which is conducting the workshop in partnership with the NMSU WERC Resource Center and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency — will help business owners learn principles about environmental management that can help them save money.

NMED, WERC and EPA staff members will attend the workshop to provide information or to help business owners fill out applications that will allow them to become part of the program.

The Green Zia Environmental Excellence Program is a statewide voluntary recognition program designed to recognize businesses throughout the state for their environmental management systems. More than a hundred businesses have participated in the program since 1999. Those who have incorporated environmental improvements and pollution prevention into their businesses have reported a combined savings of \$46.9 million between 1999 and 2007.

The program contributed to reducing environmental impacts in New Mexico in 2006 through business that diverted 9,232 pounds of solid waste from landfills and saved 50,000 gallons of water.

"The NMED P2 Program assessed our businesses and helped us to set up simple programs to measure our waste and to increase our sustainability," said Shane Ortega of Ortega Family Enterprises. "We are indebted to managers of the program for the ease with which they helped us build environmental management programs and for the monetary return that those new systems are providing for our stores."

The Ortegas operate gift shops and café's at national monuments in New Mexico including White Sands, Carlsbad Caverns and Bandelier.

The workshop is free and open to any businesses interested in reducing their waste streams and recognition for their efforts.

WHEN: From 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 19

WHERE: NMSU Corbett Center, Senate Gallery, Third Floor

Please confirm your attendance by contacting NMED Pollution Prevention Coordinator Michelle Vattano at (505) 827-0677 or Michelle.Vattano@state.nm.us .

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