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**NMED Seeks Applicants for Recycling and Illegal Dumping Tire Grants**  
*Grants Help Communities Increase Tire Recycling and Abate Scrap Tire Dumps and Stockpiles*

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department is seeking a third round of applicants for its 2011 Recycling and Illegal Dumping tire grants.

The grant program helps abate illegal dumps and promote recycling, particularly for used tires.

“These grants allow communities to expand recycling programs and combat illegal dumping to protect New Mexico’s landscape and natural resources,” said New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry. “The grants will also address tire stockpiles that have the potential to cause fires and attract rodents and insects that spread diseases.”

Scrap tires, which do not break down with other garbage in landfills, consume valuable space. Solid waste facilities often stockpile tires, which increase the possibility for tire fires and the spread of diseases including Hantavirus and West Nile Virus. The department deals with numerous cases involving problems created by scrap tires.

Tire grant funds can help pay for cleaning up old tire dumps and stockpiles on public and private land; tire derived products, such as tire bales and ground rubber for playground and landscape applications; rubberized asphalt to pave parking lots and roads; transporting scrap tires; and engineering fees and the construction of tire bale projects. The department strongly encourages that applicants submit projects for consideration that include the use of products created by tire recyclers. Those projects also help support tire recycling businesses.

A municipality, county, pueblo or tribe, land grant community, cooperative association or solid waste authority that meets eligibility requirements established by the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board is eligible to apply for the grants. Applications for this grant cycle are due August 6, 2010. Information, instructions and applications for the grants are located on the department’s Solid Waste Bureau Web site at [www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swb/](http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swb/) . Click on the Special Announcements section.

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