



# New Mexico Environment Department

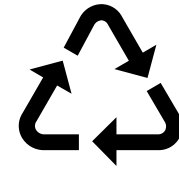
**Overview of the NMED Solid Waste Program**  
**Shirlene Sitton, Chief, Solid Waste Bureau**

**July 22, 2024**  
**Water and Natural Resources Committee**





# Solid Waste Bureau



**The mission of the SWB:** promote and work to ensure that solid waste management practices protect and improve public health, air quality, land and water for NM.

Permitting

Outreach

Enforcement



# Solid Waste Bureau Funding



SWB is most reliant on General Fund



\$10K cap limit in NMAC 74-9-8 (i)



2024 Legislative request to eliminate cap and establish fee schedule through rule-making process



Partnering with New Mexico Solid Waste Association of North America (NMSWANA) and New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC) for input and support



Working group in SWANA is developing a suggested fee schedule with SWB



# Solid Waste Bureau SWIFR Grant

The Solid Waste Infrastructure and Recycling Grant (SWIFR) was awarded in September 2023 by EPA as part of the Save our Seas 2.0 Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

- \$572,065 EPA Grant to update the 2015 State Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)
- Input through public meetings, stakeholder groups, and regulated community
- Conduct state waste characterization & design methods to improve recycling data gathering
- 2025 SWMP to emphasize safety, training and circular economy programs

Source: EPA Website



# Solid Waste Bureau SWMP

A *circular economy* reduces material use, redesigns materials and products to be less resource intensive, and recaptures “waste” as a resource to manufacture new materials and products.

Source: EPA Website

## Circular Economy Elements

- ❑ Access to recycling
- ❑ Economic development in NM for recycling commodities as feedstock
- ❑ Assess composting and organics diversion programs and perform gap analysis
- ❑ Problem plastics, like single-use bags
- ❑ Disaster debris management
- ❑ Extended producer responsibility
- ❑ SWB working with Governor’s Office on a circular economy bill for 2025



# Solid Waste Bureau - EPR

**Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)** is an environmental policy approach that holds producers responsible for product management through the product's lifecycle.

- In current SWMP, EPR top product focuses are CFLs, tires, electronics, paint, and mattresses
- RAID grants focus ~\$500K each year for tire management in particular
  - ▣ “Tire Coordinator” is the ONLY named commodity-focused position in SWB!
- Connecticut implementing first real tire EPR law
- SWB working with Governor’s Office on tire EPR bill for 2025

Source: CalRecycle Website



# Solid Waste Bureau- RAID

The 2025 Recycling and Illegal Dumping (RAID) Grant received 23 requests for \$2.3M, with 15 projects awarded in for a total of \$753,000

- Bernalillo County was awarded \$371,237 for the Pajarito Mesa Tire Dumpsite Abatement
- Town of Taos awarded \$22,400 for tire shredding of large stockpile at the landfill
- City of Clovis awarded \$56K for the Hillcrest Park Playground Rubber Mulch project



# Solid Waste Bureau-Beautiful!

The 2025 New Mexico Clean and Beautiful grant had 71 applicants competing for about \$1M.

- ❑ Litter and illegal dumping are a problem in New Mexico
- ❑ NM Tourism Department's Clean and Beautiful grants and SWB RAID grants are sister programs
- ❑ The applicants and projects typically cross over within local governments
- ❑ SWB and Tourism are looking to amplify and compliment efforts





# 2025 NMED Legislative Proposals

- ❑ Solid Waste Act - Remove \$10K cap and set fees to recover cost of service through rule-making process
- ❑ Tire Extended Producer Responsibility - Require tire manufactures to set up and manage end-of-life programs for used tires
- ❑ Non-essential PFAS ban - Could have effect on reducing and improving products and packaging, especially plastics

A horizontal bar at the top of the slide, consisting of a green rectangular section on the left and a larger blue rectangular section on the right.

Thank you!