

**Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Fund
Grant Program**

Final Evaluation Report



*Four Corners Recycling Initiative
On behalf of Greater Dolores Action*

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

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I. Executive Summary

The following summary was used in the original grant and encapsulates the goals set out for this initiative.

This is a collective effort called the Four Corners Recycling Initiative. It is sponsored by federal, local and private entities in rural Southwest Colorado. Our goal is to bring recycling opportunities - particularly cardboard, mixed paper and mixed metals - to federal and local government institutions, schools and private businesses. This effort is concentrating on diverting these commonly discarded items because of the existing infrastructure to process and bale these materials and the marketability of these commodities. We are looking at this endeavor as a long term community supported effort that will increase the sustainability of the local landfill and expand to other materials, enhance the quality of life for residents of the Four Corners area, and educate our community on the opportunities to recycle.

This grass-roots recycling effort was initiated to address the need and growing demand to expand the recycling opportunities available to residents, businesses and institutions in the greater Four Corners region of southwest Colorado. The focal point of this initiative is located in Montezuma County, which is located in the far southwest corner of the state. This is a rural community with three incorporated cities or townships; Cortez, the county seat, Dolores and Mancos. The first year of this initiative has been coordinated by a cooperative group of entities including the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM); referred to as the Dolores Public Lands Office (DPLO), the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, the town of Dolores, the town of Mancos, the city of Cortez, the Dolores School district RE4A, the Mancos school district RE6, the Montezuma-Cortez school district RE1, Crow Canyon Archeological Center, various local businesses, Montezuma County and the Montezuma County Landfill (MCLF). Approximately 27,000 residents live in Montezuma County and many more are serviced by the MCLF in the Four Corners area. The MCLF processes over 24,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) annually and serves residents throughout the Four Corners region.

The original grant application was initiated by the Dolores Public Lands sustainable operations program, referred to as our “green team”. This is part of a nation-wide effort by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to become more sustainable in day-to-day operations and with these agencies as a whole. As this effort became a realization, it shifted from a Dolores Public Lands office green team project, to one that the community as a whole embraced and carried forward.

As of July 1st, 2009, we have seven 30-yard roll-off containers and two 4-yard recycling dumpsters in place around Montezuma County. Four of these bins are open to the public and also serve the Dolores and Mancos school districts. As of the ending of the grant on June 30, 2009, the program has diverted over 113 tons of recyclable commodities from the Montezuma County Landfill which is in addition to the tonnages diverted by the City of Cortez recycling program.

The commodities being recycled include corrugated cardboard, mixed paper – this includes all types of paper material, and mixed metals – mainly aluminum and tin cans. We are very pleased with the participation from the community and believe that we have designed a

program that will be sustainable well beyond the life of the grant. Nevertheless we are continuously looking for ways to expand and improve this endeavor.

II. Project Description on Overview of Work Completed

We looked at the first year of this long-term effort as a way to initiate a functional recycling program that would establish the infrastructure and capacity to handle recyclables, educate the community on recycling opportunities and to enable the MCLF to divert and recycle previously discarded waste items. The broad goals we set out to achieve were summarized in the grant as follows:

Project Goals

- 1) To divert cardboard, paper, and mixed metal generated at large institutions (i.e. schools, federal and local government facilities,) from the solid waste stream at the Montezuma County Landfill to local and regional recycling facilities.
- 2) To educate households and businesses in the Four Corners region of the available recycling opportunities and the positive impact recycling has on local communities.

Based on the goals of the initiative stated above, we established steps which we thought were critical to the success of this program. These were presented in a detailed 6-step work plan in the grant and are as follows:

- 1) Hire an Outreach and Development Coordinator. Coordinator will conduct outreach and education to the community.
- 2) Place orders for 30-yard roll-off recycling containers, 3-yard dumpsters, small recycling receptacles for classrooms and offices.
- 3) Place 30-yard roll-off containers and 3-yard paper recycling dumpsters at public and private sites.
- 4) Design an outreach program to present to schools in order to achieve proper recycling at these locations. Outreach coordinator is available to facilitate schools in recycling throughout year.
- 5) Work with web developer. Conduct newspaper/radio/publicity work. Design outreach flyer/survey to gauge community needs for future recycling opportunities.
- 6) Form steering committee of stakeholders and have quarterly meetings to address objectives and obstacles.

All six items in this work plan have been successfully completed. We hired the Outreach and Development coordinator in July 2008, approximately two weeks after we were given authorization to go forward with the implementation of the initiative by the State. With the support of the Outreach and Development Coordinator, we ordered the roll-off containers, 4-yard dumpsters and other needed recycling receptacles and materials in July of 2008. These items were received in mid-August and we distributed them to the institutions and schools that were participating in the recycling program in late August and early September of 2008. Bins were officially open to the public for recycling on September 1st, 2008.

The Outreach and Development Coordinator then began the task of creating an education program by first presenting at all of the participating schools and institutions on how to properly

recycle. In addition to the initial presentations, the Outreach and Development Coordinator conducted some grade level presentations at the participating schools. The coordinator also put together educational toolkits complete with lesson plans, books, activities, and educational videos about recycling. The coordinator delivered these educational toolkits to the participating schools and worked with individual teachers to develop lesson plans and educational programs that utilize these toolkits.

The Outreach and Development Coordinator worked hard to get the word out to the general public regarding the new recycling opportunities in our community. She conducted publicity work with area media outlets and we ran several advertisements in local print papers and on local radio stations. In addition to paid advertising, we have run several PSA's on the local public radio station regarding the recycling initiative. We have had four news articles about our project in regional newspapers. One key step in the successful outreach of this program was to create an informative and well-organized website. We worked with the web developer to create a web site (www.4cornersrecycles.org) that clearly indicates what can be recycled and where recycling is available to the public. This website also contains news updates and information that may help the public recycle more efficiently. The other aspect of this portion of the work plan was to conduct surveys in order to gauge community support and interest in a regional recycling program. We were able to conduct surveys with businesses throughout Montezuma County that provided us with information regarding how private entities value a recycling program. The survey was designed to measure willingness to pay for recycling services based on how much cardboard, paper, and metal the entity produces and currently disposes as waste. The results of the survey will be used in the future when the program has gained enough strength and support to propose a pay for service type of program. In the mean time, we are using some of the results to demonstrate how a business can decrease their trash bill by increasing their recycling, hopefully at a net gain.

Lastly, we formed a steering committee that consisted of the partners in the initiative and representatives from the general public that were supportive of recycling in our community. The purpose of the quarterly meetings was to give updates on the status of the grant and to provide a mechanism in which any problems and successes encountered could be addressed. These meetings proved to be a great forum for the entities involved to share ideas, provide logistical oversight and strategize collectively on continuing the success of the initiative. We strived to provide the latest information regarding the initiative, including the tonnage collected to date and which locations were functioning the most efficiently. The meetings were held on October 7th, 2008; January 13, 2009; May 13, 2009 and July 15th, 2009, respectively. Our work plan and a summary of deliverables, complete with dates, is shown in the table below.

Deliverable	Completion Date	Comments (if deliverable <u>was not completed</u> , please explain why or progress made)
Hiring Outreach & Development Coordinator	7/1/2008	
Place orders for the 30 yard roll-off recycling containers, 3 yard dumpsters, the recycling receptacles and for all of the labels associated with the containers.	8/1/2008	

Materials, receptacles and containers are delivered; placed at service locations for participating entities throughout the Four Corners area.	9/1/2008	
The Outreach and Development coordinator will develop a program to present to the schools who are participating in this initiative.	9/18/2008	
Design outreach flyer/survey to gauge community needs for future recycling opportunities. Work with web developer to get clear message to the public about the recycling opportunities in the community.	1/20/2009	Note: This project is ongoing. Updates to the website happen quarterly.
A steering committee will be formulated with representatives from all of the entities that will benefit from this initiative. This committee will meet quarterly throughout the implementation period of the grant.	Meeting dates: 10/7/08 1/13/09 5/13/09 7/15/09	As part of the incorporation process, we formed a Board and elected Officers. Most of the members of the Steering Committee are represented on the Board. Our first Board meeting was held on 8/19/09.

III. Summary of Findings & Results

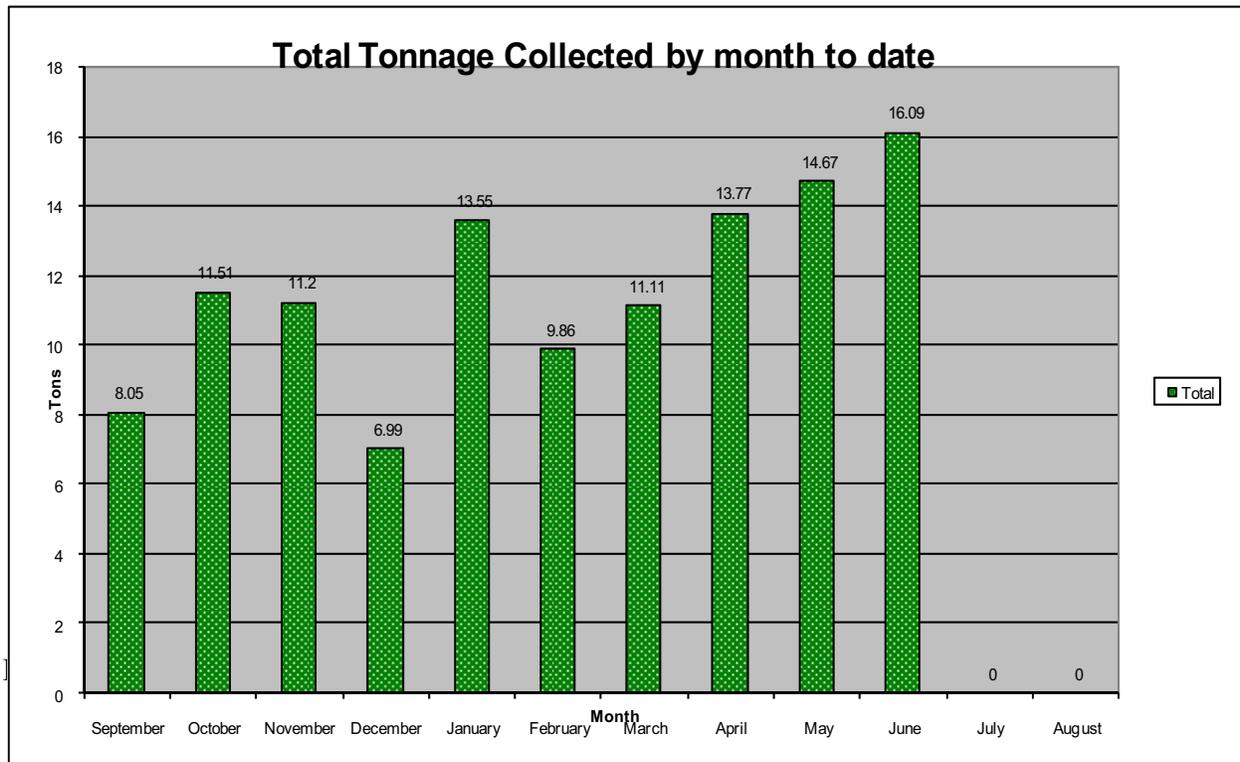
We are very pleased to report that the overall acceptance and enthusiasm for this program has been tremendous. We receive constant positive feedback from the community indicating strong overall support of the recycling program. In fact, most of the comments we receive concern when we are going to expand to glass and plastic. We feel that our extensive campaign at the beginning of the program was instrumental for the general public knowing what, when, and where they can recycle with this effort. We also believe that this has been a contributing factor for the low contamination rate we are experiencing with our recycle bins. We estimate that we have a 4% or lower contamination rate, well below the national average for recycling programs.

The program as a whole has received positive feedback from the entities involved as well. This feedback has been given at the quarterly stakeholder meetings and with one-on-one conversations with these organizations. The partners in this effort have decided to continue with the program after the grant cycle was complete, and to form an official 501c3 out of the initiative. As this program moves forward, we have been contacted by entities around the Four Corners region on how they can participate. This includes Red Mesa, AZ., Monticello, UT., Shiprock, NM and Mesa Verde National Park. It is encouraging to see interest to participate in this program continue to grow as time goes on. The partnerships with a wide variety of entities and localities will contribute to the long-term success of this program.

The FCRI has worked hard at documenting the various results associated with this effort since the beginning of the program. This data has allowed us to track how much is actually being recycled, but also allows us to make informed decisions that would benefit the program. Our tracking methodologies have evolved to provide better data for the program, and to allow easier documentation for the entities involved, mainly the Montezuma County Landfill. During the first four months of the program we did not track the tonnage from a particular location, but tracked the total tonnage collected. As the initiative moved forward, we developed a mechanism to track what each individual location was producing. This is done by the landfill staff when the recycling roll-offs are brought in for processing (see appendix for the graphs depicting this data). This data has been incredibly useful in telling us which public bins are receiving the most use and how to schedule the pick-up of these bins so that they are more useable by the public.

Because all of the commodities we are recycling are in one container, it is impossible to calculate how much each location recycles of a given commodity, however we have accurate estimates of our total collection of each commodity based on how many bales of each is sent to market. We are working on a system that would allow us to fine tune our data collection even more to determine the commodity mix from each location. Through the end of June, 2009, the tonnage break-down is as follows:

Year to date total (September 08 – July 09) = 116.8 tons (10.76 tons/month on average)



implementation. Though some roadblocks were more controllable than others, we must give credit to the MCLF staff and the other entities involved to create solutions and keep the project moving forward.

The most significant roadblock that the project faced was a combination of the rapid decline of commodities market prices along with the current global recession. Though these two events are closely tied, they had different outcomes. Our projections of costs and revenues and the overall financial model of the initiative changed drastically during these tumultuous months. The drop in the commodities market made the possibility of revenue-sharing between the landfill and the recycle bin hosts least likely in the near future. This option is still quite feasible and the County is open to this possibility provided operating costs are recouped and commodity prices increase.

The most significant and direct impact to the program, and therefore unanticipated change, can be directly attributed to the global recession. Tough financial times caused our primary hauler, Baker Sanitation Industries, to raise their service price from \$25/pull to \$112.50/pull at least 4 months ahead of their original agreement to do so. This change was not only a surprise, but placed an unanticipated burden on our bin site hosts and changed their budget projections for the project. Though we had always anticipated the price per pull to

increase once the grant was over in July, we did not plan on this happening this past spring. Fortunately, our partners remained committed to the program and, despite higher costs, remained committed to providing recycling to their communities. FCRI responded to the change in price by immediately engaging in discussions with alternative hauling companies that may offer competitive pricing and stepping up our fundraising efforts to address the sudden increase in costs. The dialogue that was started with other haulers underscored the fact that this service opportunity was open to competitive bidding. One partner, Southwest Memorial Hospital, actually switched to Waste Management as a result of these discussions. This turn of events was a positive episode, as they were receiving less than satisfactory service from our main service provider. Opening up the service to competition was a wake-up call to Baker Sanitation and forced them address the customer service needs that we had.

Fortunately, part of the project was to build some covered storage at the landfill to place baled commodities. The completion of the lean-to on the planned maintenance shop at the landfill allowed us to inventory some commodities and wait to deliver them to market until the prices rebounded a little. In addition, the storage space has also led to a formal partnership agreement between the City of Cortez and the landfill for the processing of the city's commodities to increase or leverage with various buyers. Our ability to hedge against changes in a truly global commodity market in which we are merely a price taker salvaged some additional revenue for the project. We are very excited to see commodity prices on the rebound and are hopeful that they will return to the levels seen in the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2008.

Operationally, we ran into a few roadblocks that we did not originally anticipate. First and foremost, the design of the bins we purchased is not optimal. We found out very quickly that the original compartment order was not correct and changed that immediately. Secondly, we have found out that even with a revised commodity order, the half door design that is used in the partitions between the commodity sections does not allow for rapid or efficient unloading. The landfill personnel are spending more time unloading the bins than we anticipated. Finally, the bins are not totally weather proof and that becomes an issue in the winter if some moisture gets into the bin and freezes. The bin has to be delivered ahead of time and warmed in order to be unloaded. We will look at other types of bins to purchase as this program grows.

Finally, we have run into an unanticipated roadblock based on our success. We are now gathering up so much tonnage that we do not always have an empty bin to swap out a full when it is delivered to the landfill. We have addressed this problem by putting the bins receiving the most consistent quantity on a regular schedule of emptying rather than continuing with our "call when full" model that we started with. At times when using the call when full system, all of the bins were being delivered to the landfill on the same day and often a day ahead of when they were scheduled to be emptied. When all of the bins were at the landfill full, host locations would go 2 to 5 days without a bin. We did not think this was providing adequate customer service, and this did not provide for predictability for the landfill to staff for reception and processing of the commodities. By putting three of our most heavily used public bins on consistent emptying schedules, customer service and landfill scheduling has improved. This will also help the bin host sites budget accordingly, given that we can secure a yearly haul cost from our service provider. One part of this logistical problem stemmed from the amount of bins that we anticipated were needed. With seven working bins, and only one empty, we were destined to encounter problems. As new partners show interest in participating in this program, we are requiring that they purchase two bins. One bin would be for use at the site, and one would be

used as an empty for exchange. As funding opportunities become available, we will also purchase more bins to help alleviate this problem.

V. Communication of Project

We have used several different avenues in which to effectively communicate progress and standing of the project to the entities involved and the general public. Since the project began, we have strived to present information concerning the grant funds and the logistical components of the program with full disclosure to all parties involved. One key component of this open communication that has helped the program address problems or needs has been our quarterly stakeholder meetings. These meetings have allowed us to present information regarding the status of the grant and how the logistics are, or are not, working. This forum has allowed the entities involved to be informed throughout the entire process, and have given them a way in which to express their needs or frustrations. These meetings include representatives from all aspects of the project and have averaged around 20 persons per meeting.

We have also been communicating our results to the general public in several ways. The first method was using the same media outlets that we employed to communicate and advertise the project. One of our main local media outlets is our local community radio station, KSJD. They offer free public service announcements that are read on-air and published on their website. We have routinely (once a month on average) published our results, offered tips and reminders, and notified the public of our intent and any changes to the program via this free service. We have also continued to reach out to the local newspapers hoping to get some print coverage via invitations to meeting and events. Coverage in this sense is optional, so the results of this effort have been mixed. The second method we have taken advantage of to get our message to the public has been our participation in various community events and festivals. We attended and had a information booth present at the 2009 Four Corners Ag Expo (approximately 15,000 attendees), the 2008 and 2009 Dolores Riverfest (2,500 attendees), the 2008 Dolores Escalante Days festival (2,000 attendees), the 2008 Verde fest at Mesa Verde National Park and we will have a booth at the upcoming 2009 Verde Fest in Cortez. These events have presented great opportunities to answer questions and disseminate information to community members and we consider these events as key to getting the word out about the program. In addition to informing the public on the recycling program at these various events, we distributed approximately 200 recycle bins that were donated by the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe. We were also invited to be the beneficiary of the Osprey Packs Inc. local's spring sale. This was a chance for us to have a booth near the checkout line where we were able to engage with almost everyone who attended. As the non-profit for this event, Osprey donated 2% of their sales to our initiative. This event raised the recycling initiative almost \$1,300.

In addition to these very public outings and efforts to raise awareness, we have constructed a website that serves the residents needing information about this project (www.4cornersrecycles.org). The website contains not only information regarding how, when and where you can recycle in the four corners region, but also about recycling in general. We have been able to update this website several times in order to present news and information current with the project. We are currently working on updating and revising information on the website. Our next major revision to the site plans to add a sponsorship tab in which the public can contribute financially to this initiative.

Perhaps the most simple, but effective way that the program has been advertised is by the presence of the large green recycling bins at area schools and businesses. We are hoping that businesses will want to be considered a “green business” and thus make the effort to become a partner. This has happened with one of our partners, Skanska Corporation. This company is a multi-national construction company that has corporate “green” goals and objectives. Once our program was under way, they contacted us as a way in which to participate with this effort while fulfilling a company goal of becoming more sustainable. The green bins at the Forest Service/BLM building have let the public know that this public lands office recycles and supports this effort. This has provided exceptional feedback from the public.

Finally, our efforts have been recognized by the state via our nomination for a Bronze level award in the State’s Environmental Leadership Program. This achievement brings with it many publicity opportunities and lends credibility to the program at the state level. Recognition via the Environmental Leadership Program will expose us to additional publicity opportunities and we intend to use them to their full potential.

VI. Future Impact of Project

This project has left an impression on the community and we believe we have achieved our intent of creating a sustainable recycling system that will be a part of the community for the long term. Our results illustrate increasing collections for 5 months in a row and we are confident that this will continue to rise. We have been approached by outlying communities that want to be part of the project, namely Red Mesa, AZ., Monticello, UT., and Dove Creek, CO. We have additional entities, namely Mesa Verde National Park, which want to be involved in the project and are willing to invest in their own bins to be a part of it. Additionally, some of our existing partners such as the Ute Mountain Ute tribe and Skanska Corporation are seeing the positive benefits and long term potential of the project and are willing to invest in additional capacity as well. The project has made a deep and lasting impression on the future of recycling here in the area.

The project has also made an impression on the City of Cortez. The city has long had their own recycling program that has been viewed as a drain on city resources. Because of our willingness to work with them and share the benefits of the program with them, they are investing in additional capacity and expanding their commodity collection to be more in line with our program. They are expanding their program from collecting only white paper at the schools to include mixed paper in the community. They are purchasing their own truck that will be dedicated to collecting cardboard and mixed paper, and they have entered into an agreement with the landfill to pay them for the baling, storage and shipping of the material. All of these developments are because of the proven track record of success of the Four Corners Recycling Initiative and the expansion of the City’s diversion program will have a measurable impact on tonnage diverted from burial at the landfill.

VII. Financial Summary

We are very pleased with how much we were able to do with the grant monies received. Our grant allocation was for \$91,212.00. Of this amount, we were able to spend all but .60 of the grant. It was extremely helpful that the CDPHE was willing to authorize us to spend the final \$1,400 for the non-profit specialist. Though this was not outlined in the original grant

application, it is proving to be a pivotal part of this initiative moving forward. We were also fortunate to have matching and in-kind donations of various types throughout the program. The most significant being the time spent on this project by key members of the organization. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe also contributed funds that would go towards the proper use of their recycling bin on their property. This includes fencing to store the bin and magnets to maximize the efficiency of their bin. Lastly, the Montezuma County Landfill contributed significant manpower and expertise to make this effort successful. They also matched and exceeded our contribution of \$15,000 for the construction of the storage lean-to. All costs associated with the program are in the table below. We have also included a breakdown of the matching costs by the different entities.

Matching Funds From Participating Entities

Entity	In-kind amount	Description
Dolores Public Lands Office	\$5,000 (approximate)	Salary of Eric Freels, Ashton Hargrave
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	\$6,581	Fencing & facility improvements for recycling
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	\$441	Bin magnets to improve commodity mix
Montezuma County Landfill	\$43,000	Construction of lean-to facility
Montezuma County Landfill	\$3,000 (approximate)	Salary of Deborah Barton, Tim Bates, and floor personnel

Chart depicting how and where funds were spent:

Item - # Needed	Distributor	Cost	Total
Roll-off Recycling Containers – 8	N.E.O.Fab –	\$6,000.00 each	\$48,000.00
3 Yard Recycling Container For Cortez Schools - 4	N.E.O.Fab –	\$650.00 each	\$2,600.00
Lean-to addition at the Landfill (20’x100’)	Kevin Partington,	.	\$15,000.00
12.5 gallon Classroom Recycle bins - 250		\$14.40 each	\$3612.00
Large Recycle bins with wheels - 8		\$100.00 each	\$800.00
Information boards at collection bins - 6		125.00 each	\$500.00

Labels for collection bins – 30			\$100.00
Outreach and Development coordinator - part time person		Based on ¼ of the year @ \$20.00 hr.	\$10,000.00
Advertising for Outreach and Development Coordinator			\$600.00
Contingency Costs			\$2,000.00
Website Design	Sierra Designs		\$1,000.00
Educational Materials			\$6,000.00
GDA Administrative costs (Liability Insurance)			\$1,000.00
			\$91,212

VIII. Final Conclusion

We are very pleased with the success of the program and we feel that we have established a functional infrastructure for a long-term recycling program in the Four Corners region. Additionally, we have diverted a measurable amount of material from burial in the Montezuma County Landfill and sent these commodities to market in lieu of virgin materials. Perhaps most importantly, we have educated our community and our children on the benefits of recycling and have begun to institute a culture of reducing, reusing, and recycling in our rural communities. Thankfully, we have been recognized for our efforts, recognition that will only serve the greater good of the program and its intent.

The grant program itself, beyond providing the funds and oversight for the program to get started and succeed, has been very flexible and responsive to changes in our working conditions and allowed us to respond to unanticipated changes in the economy. The program has also allowed us the freedom to deal with our success. We frankly did not know exactly how well the program would be received, although we had an idea that it would be successful. We did not anticipate that there would be this much participation and a demand for expansion of the program. Though we are successfully recycling, we have still only reached 8-10% of the potential for diversion in our area. The structure and oversight of the RREO group has allowed us to respond accordingly, make changes were necessary to the original plan, and keep us moving forward in pursuit of our goals. These goals have been collectively set by the groups participating in the program and who may benefit from this program in the future.

These goals have both short-term and long-term scopes and will address many of the needs that became evident in our first year of operation. The first action being taken is to form the Four Corners Recycling Initiative into its own 501c3 organization. The transition from the Four Corners Recycling Initiative to Four Corners Recycling Incorporated will allow for fundraising opportunities in the future and will be governed by individuals who represent the entities involved. This participation will hopefully increase the leadership roles taken by these involved organizations. As this happens, Greater Dolores Action – our current fiscal agent- will

turn all assets associated with this program over to the FCRI. We have contracted a local non-profit specialist to administer and facilitate this process. We hope that we will be able to raise funds as a 501c3 in order to help schools and public drop-off locations cover the costs associated with having the recycle bins emptied. As grants and other funding mechanisms become available to our organization, we anticipate that an part-time Executive Director would be hired to help with logistics and educational outreach.

Another goal of the FCRI is to expand our recycling locations to organizations who would like to participate in the program. One good example is Mesa Verde National Park. They are currently in the process of purchasing two recycle bins, one for the empty, to implement recycling for their staff. This is an example of the interest from the community to participate which will ultimately increase the amount of materials diverted from the landfill.

Finally, we would like to see other materials included in our program. We are working with the City of Cortez and other nearby municipalities that may be able to work together to make material expansion feasible for all parties. We would love to see a local business that has a need for recycled materials come forward and take advantage of these commodities. We are looking at using pulverized glass in road base and in other applications that this material can be used for.

We are confident that the communities and citizens of the Four Corners region have embraced recycling as an important and needed exercise when dealing with solid waste in the 21st century. We look forward to offering the opportunities to continue recycling in the region, while also providing the education in which lasting impressions can be made in our school children to take with them to other rural communities in order to live a more sustainable existence.

IX Appendix

a. **Grant Metrics** (see Excel spreadsheet) this is attached to the report.

Date project fully operational: September-08									
(Based on deliverables- month that impact of grant would have changed volumes/job creation/participants)									
Diversion Rates: Data is compiled as total tons. Amount by commodity is estimated to be 34% cardboard, 64% paper, and 2% metals									
(Choose one material per box. Only list those collected over the grant cycle. Must be listed as "tons". See tab labeled "Conversion Tables" if needed.)									
Material Diverted #1	Cardboard			Material Diverted #2	Newspaper/Office paper			Material Diverted #3	Metals
	Tons Diverted				Tons Diverted				Tons Diverted
July-08	0			July-08	0			July-08	0
August-08	0			August-08	0			August-08	0
September-08	2.74			September-08	5.15			September-08	.16
October-08	3.91			October-08	7.37			October-08	.23
November-08	3.81			November-08	7.17			November-08	.22
December-08	2.38			December-08	4.47			December-08	.14
January-09	4.61			January-09	8.67			January-09	.27
February-09	3.35			February-09	6.31			February-09	.2
March-09	3.78			March-09	7.11			March-09	.22
April-09	4.68			April-09	8.81			April-09	.28
May-09	4.99			May-09	9.39			May-09	.29
June-09	5.47			June-09	10.3			June-09	.32
Total	44.47			Total	83.68			Total	2.61
Other div. material:				Other div. material:				Other div. material:	

***Other information included in the metrics is on the Excel document.**

b. Community Leaders Contact Information

DOLORS PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE

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GREATER DOLORS ACTION (GDA)

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SCOTT CLOW – Chairperson GDA (SEE ABOVE)

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MONTEZUMA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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UTE MOUNTAIN INDIAN TRIBE – PARTNER

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DOLORES SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-4a.

17631 Hwy. 145, Dolores, Colorado 81323
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MANCOS SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-6.

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CITY OF CORTEZ GOVERNMENT

Cortez City Hall, 210 E. Main Street, Cortez, CO. 81321
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OFFICE: 970-564-4004 EMAIL: jharrington@cityofcortez.com

TOWN OF DOLORES

420 Central Ave., PO Box 630, Dolores, CO. 81323
OFFICE: 970-882-7720
JIM LEIN, MAYOR 970-882-4959

SOUTHWEST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

DAVE MCVICKER, DIRECTOR OF PLANT OPERATIONS

OFFICE: 970-564-2643 EMAIL: dmcvicker@swhealth.org

DURANGO RECYCLING

NANCY ANDREWS, MANAGER

OFFICE: 970-375-4830

BELT SALVAGE AND STEEL – Metals recycler

DAN BELT, OWNER

OFFICE: 970-565-3059

c. Manuals, Brochures, Print Advertisements, Pictures, Educational Materials, etc.
Image of the logo/sticker created for the initiative:



Black/White Version:



The following are lesson plans and classroom exercises that we distributed to the schools along with their educational toolkit:

CLASSROOM PAPER RECYCLING EXERCISE

Grades 6-12

OBJECTIVE: The students will identify recycling as an alternative to disposal of paper. A method for determining the cost-effectiveness of a recycling program will be described.

RESOURCES: Bathroom or other scale, calculator, classroom wastebasket, paper grocery bags or cardboard boxes, telephone directory, telephone.

PROCEDURE:

1. Ask the class to separate paper items from other classroom disposables for one week, segregating them into a suitable collection container. Label the collection container "Recyclable Paper."
2. Discuss with the class ways in which the collected paper might be re-used in the classroom. Are there other uses for the paper in the school?
3. Weigh the paper after one week's collection. Project the weight of paper that might be collected in a month's time, a semester, the school year. Multiply the projected weights by the number of other classrooms in the school. Convert the figures to tons for results greater than 2,000 lbs. Record the projections.
4. Consult the yellow pages of the telephone directory for the location of a scrap paper market (see "scrap dealers" or "scrap metals"). Contact the scrap paper markets to determine preparation requirements and prices paid for various grades of paper, including mixed ledger (office quality) paper, newsprint, computer paper, corrugated cardboard, mixed wastepaper, and magazines. Determine whether there is a market for the paper collected in the classroom. Inquire whether the scrap paper dealer will provide transportation of the recycled paper.
5. What is the current value of the paper collected in the classroom? Would separating the paper into two or more market grades improve its value? If transportation is not provided by the scrap paper dealer, what will it cost to transport the paper to market?
6. Determine whether the recycling effort could be cost-effective on a classroom basis. Compare potential revenues from the sale of the recycled paper to the costs to collect and transport the paper to market. Would it be cost-effective if all the paper discarded in the school could be recycled?
7. Consider the disposal cost avoided if the paper is recycled rather than disposed. Contact the disposal service that collects the school's waste to determine the cost per ton of collection and disposal. Could the "avoided disposal cost" savings improve the cost-effectiveness of the paper

recycling effort? (Each ton recycled is one ton less to be disposed.) Could the school save money by recycling paper?

8. Discuss the findings with the class and the school principal. Publicize the results of the study in the school newspaper.

Paper Recycling Cost-Effectiveness

[weight of paper X scrap price] minus [collection cost + transportation cost] = paper value

weight of paper X [waste collection cost + waste disposal cost] = avoided disposal cost

paper value + avoided disposal cost = paper recycling cost-effectiveness

(note: units of weight and value must be consistent)

LESSON PLAN -- DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING COSTS

GRADES 6-12

OBJECTIVES: The students will gain an awareness of the costs of waste disposal. The students will demonstrate that disposal costs may be offset by recycling a portion of municipal waste.

RESOURCES: Calculator, chalkboard.

INTRODUCTION: Eleven million Pennsylvanians generate over nine million tons of municipal waste annually. That is the equivalent of nearly five pounds of waste generated per person per day. In some Pennsylvania communities, the cost for disposal of municipal waste exceeds \$40.00 per ton. This does not include the cost for collection and transportation of the waste.

It has been estimated that over 50% of the municipal waste generated is comprised of materials which are recyclable, but only about one percent is presently recycled.

PROCEDURE:

1. Ask each member of the class to calculate the amount of municipal waste generated by his family in a week using the factor of five pounds per person per day. Discuss with the class whether the results are realistic. How do some families generate less garbage? (Buying less, buying less packaging, reusing, recycling, composting, etc.).

2. Have the class calculate the amount of municipal waste a community of 10,000 persons would generate annually. What would be the annual cost to the community for its waste disposal at \$40.00 per ton? Discuss with the class how communities pay for disposal of municipal waste (direct payment for municipal collection and disposal, taxes, utility fee, direct payment to contracting disposal firms).

3. Assume that 25% of the community waste could be recovered and sold through recycling. Assume that the average market price paid for aluminum, glass, ferrous metal, paper and plastic is \$10.00 per ton. Assume that the cost for collection and transportation of recyclables is equivalent to that of waste.

Ask the class to calculate the amount of the annual community waste disposal cost that could be saved through recycling. Did the class consider that an additional savings would be realized since the amount of waste requiring disposal has been reduced by 25%?

4. Discuss with the class other benefits associated with the recycling of municipal waste (energy and natural resource conservation, environmental benefits of disposal avoidance including conservation of existing landfill space, employment in the recycling industry, etc.).

5. Ask the class members whether a recycling effort in their community could affect disposal costs. Why?

LESSON PLAN: WASTE - WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? WHERE DOES IT GO?

K-12

OBJECTIVES: The students will identify the various waste materials generated in the school. They will describe the sequence of collection and the destination of the materials identified.

RESOURCES: Classroom wastebasket, maintenance personnel, area road map, chalkboard.

PROCEDURE:

1. Separate the class into three groups.
2. Have group one examine the contents of the classroom wastebasket. Ask the group to identify the various types of waste materials generated in the classroom. Categorize the waste materials as paper products, glass, metals, plastics, organic wastes, etc. Record the findings on the chalkboard.
3. The second group should examine the flow of the waste materials after they are collected from the classroom. This may require an interview with maintenance personnel. Are the wastes consolidated with other classroom's wastes? Why? Are the wastes transferred to a large capacity receptacle? Are any wastes burned in a school incinerator? Are any waste materials recycled? If wastes are collected from the school by the municipality or a commercial disposal firm, where are the wastes disposed?
4. Have the third group determine the types of wastes generated in special subject areas of the school (arts and crafts, gym, home economics, industrial arts, etc.), the school cafeteria, the office, the maintenance area. Are these wastes handled in the same manner as classroom wastes? Determine what other wastes are generated by the school. Where do these wastes go?

5. Regroup the class. Have a member or members of each group report the group findings, beginning with group one. Create a diagram or a flowchart on the chalkboard to outline the reports of groups two and three, indicating the steps between waste generation and waste disposal.
6. Ask whether any members of the class live near or have visited a landfill, an incinerator, a recycling center, or a sewage treatment plant. Ask for descriptions and impressions of the facilities. Determine whether any of these facilities are located near the school. You may need to contact your county planning department for the locations. Plot the facility locations and the school location on the road map. Calculate the distances that waste materials must be transported to each facility. List the type of wastes generated by the school which are managed by each facility and the distance of each facility from the school.
7. (Optional) Arrange a class field trip to one or more waste management facility. Create a class record for each facility. Include photos, drawings, essays, and audio or video tape recordings.

Lesson Plan – Middle and High School Presentations – Stephanie Ogburn

Objectives:

- Students will be able to know that human activities produce waste and that waste, unless recycled, goes to the landfill.
- Students will be able to know that the products humans use come from both renewable and nonrenewable resources
- Students will be able to understand that recycling helps keep resources available for future use and reduces landfill filling.
- Students will be able to analyze their own use of resources and brainstorm ways they and their school can use fewer resources.

Tools: Butcher paper (two sheets per group), markers, representations of various materials students use to complete their scenario.

Lesson:

Divide students into groups of 5-6 students, for 5 groups total. Each group gets a sheet of paper outlining a task. They need to read the task and determine what materials they would use to complete the task. After this is completed the instructor tells them to make lists on butcher paper of all the trash they produce if they were to actually complete that task.

After lists are completed, have groups share what trash each group's task produced. Instructor will then facilitate a short discussion on what happens to that trash when it is thrown away (goes to landfill, is crushed to save space, fills up landfill.)

Teacher informs the students that they now have the option to recycle mixed paper, cardboard, glass, and tin and aluminum cans. Tell them to go back to their trash list and see what of that they can recycle.

Groups report back on what is recyclable. Discussion on what happens to recycled materials versus landfilled materials.

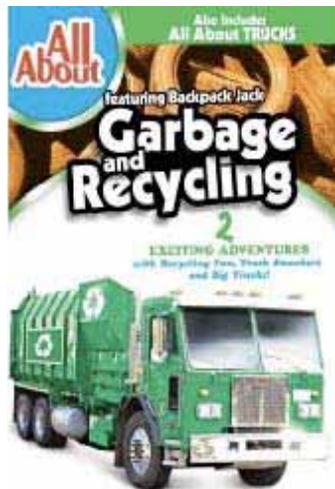
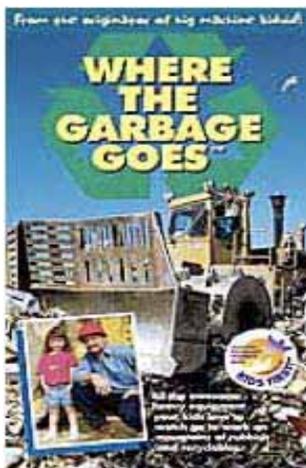
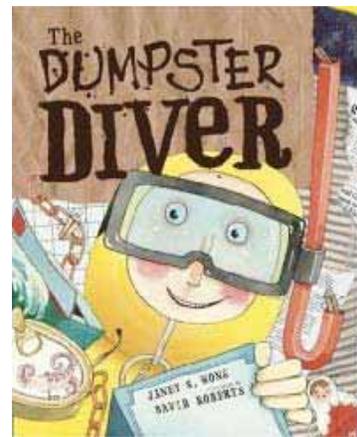
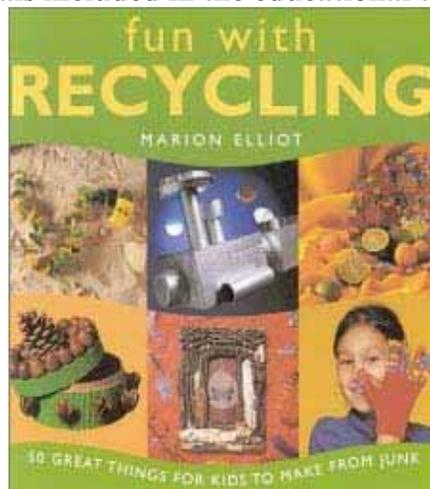
Regroup and have students pick the three items on their “trash list” that they use the most. Instructor facilitates discussion on where these materials come from (trees, metal, etc.)

Have groups write on the butcher paper next to the trash list where materials come from.

Instructor facilitates discussion on which of these materials are renewable? Which are nonrenewable? Place an “R” next to renewable resources and an “N” next to nonrenewable.

Groups receive new sheets of butcher paper. Have half of the groups brainstorm how they can reduce their use of resources in their home, the other half of the group brainstorm how they can reduce and recycle more in their school. Write ideas on butcher paper, hang up and report back to whole group. If time allows groups can illustrate these reduce/recycle posters.

Examples of the materials included in the educational toolkits:



Example of the handouts given to the educators:

FOUR CORNERS RECYCLING INITIATIVE INFORMATION

www.4cornersrecycles.org

**Stephanie Ogburn, Outreach & Development Coordinator.
970.570.9609, stephanie@stephanieogburn.com**

The Four Corners Recycling Initiative helps Montezuma County recycle by purchasing and giving recycling bins to area institutions and schools and offering recycling outreach and education for schools and the community.

The Initiative is providing mixed paper, mixed metal, and corrugated cardboard recycling to Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (available to Crow Canyon visitors and employees only – no public drop-off)

- The center has received a **22-foot long, green recycling roll-off container** that is located on the campus, dedicated to collecting the three recyclable commodities.
- Baker Sanitation will pick up the recycling dumpster as needed, probably once or twice a month, whenever a Crow Canyon representative calls and requests a pickup.
- The Initiative recommends having one or two employees assigned to calling when the bin is full. It takes 24 hours for a pickup to take place after a call.
- BAKER SANITATION'S NUMBER: (970) 565-1212.
- Crow Canyon is paying \$25/month for this recycling pickup service. As the Initiative grows and recycling pickup costs rise, the Initiative hopes to help pay for this service through the sale of recyclable commodities.

Material specifications:

- Mixed paper includes newspaper, white paper, colored paper, telephone books, junk mail, and other papers like this. *It DOES NOT include manila folders or paper board such as cracker boxes or cereal boxes. It DOES NOT include paper with food scraps on it, such as paper plates or napkins.*
- Mixed metal generally includes aluminum and steel (tin) cans. Some other metal can be included as well, as all metal goes to Belt Salvage in Cortez.
- Corrugated cardboard is cardboard with wavy lines in it. It cannot be wax-coated. *Corrugated cardboard DOES NOT include paper board such as cracker boxes, cereal boxes or six-pack holders. You cannot recycle these items.*

The Initiative has 6 bins located across Montezuma County providing recycling to public and private entities:

Private Use bins:

- Dolores Schools
- Ute Mountain Ute Casino
- Crow Canyon Archaeological Center

Public Use bins:

- Mancos Schools
- Dolores Public Lands Office
- Montezuma County Landfill

Recycle in Dolores!

Where?

North 14th Street, next to Dolores High School

What?

- **Mixed Metal:** aluminum and steel cans
- **Mixed Paper:** junk mail, magazines, office paper, catalogs, phone books
- **Corrugated Cardboard :** flattened



Look for the **green** recycling bin.

Please use responsibly; if this one is full use the public receptacle at the Dolores Public Lands Office on Hwy 184

25

For more info go to www.4cornersrecycles.org

Thanks to the Dolores School District and the Town of Dolores for supporting recycling

Picture Montage used for the website at the beginning of the Program:



Roll-Off Bin being delivered to the Dolores School Complex



Recycling container being delivered at the Dolores Public Lands Office



Bin being delivered at the Mancos School Complex



The Mancos bin with the FCRI Logo



The Four Corners Recycling Initiative Logo!



The remaining containers ready to hit the street!

Other Pictures of the Program:
Cardboard being processed at the landfill -



Cardboard on the processing floor of the landfill -



Mixed paper and Cardboard on the processing floor-



Preparing to bale! -



Mixed paper bale coming out of the baler-



Commodity storage before the lean-to was completed-



4- yard dumpster for use at the Cortez Schools -



Full recycle bin with info board at the Dolores Public Lands Office -



Storage building/lean-to being constructed at the landfill -



The completed lean-to at the landfill -



The grant paid for \$15,000 of this lean-to, the remaining cost was matched by the County



Lean-to storing baled recyclables waiting to be shipped -



Newspaper Articles about the Program:

Sept. 10, 2008

MANCOS TIMES

County recycling initiative gets great start

by Jeanne Richardson

The Four Corners recycling initiative has been in existence less than a year, but they now have public recycling bins in Mancos and Dolores, plus a few more in the county that are not for public use. The containers are 30 cubic yards big, and have separate places for all the recyclables – mixed paper, corrugated cardboard and mixed metals. The container in Mancos is located behind the school, on the southwest corner. It is big enough to hold a lot of recyclables, said Stephanie Ogburn, part time outreach and development coordinator for the initiative. Each of the classrooms in Mancos also have smaller bins that they can use indoors, plus a rolling container to transport the recyclables outdoors to the larger bin. The locations were chosen because of their proximity to the population, and because they wanted to make sure the whole county could have a bin available to them. They also needed to get an agreement from the place they put them, which also determined their choices. “ We wanted to combine recycling for the community with recycling education,” said Ogburn. They will be using some of the grant money to purchase books and videos for teachers to use, said Ogburn, and she has put together a tool kit that they can use in their classrooms for teaching recycling. She is also available to talk with the kids to help them understand the value and benefits of recycling in their community.

“ The teachers have been really supportive,” Ogburn said. The grant for the project, which provided \$ 91,000, was written by Eric Freels, wildlife technician at the Dolores Public Lands Office, and Ashton Hargrave, also of the Dolores Public Lands Office. This money, from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, got things going with the recycling. The funding came through on July 1, said Ogburn. Also involved in the project is Scott Clow of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe office. Four Corners Recycling Initiative was created as a result of the grant, which was actually received by the Dolores Public Lands Office, whose fiscal agent is the Greater Dolores Action Committee. “ The Dolores Public Lands Office was really the catalyst,” said Freels. “ They gave me the opportunity to work on this and get it going.” Leading up to the grant submission, said Clow, they worked at getting support from communities, schools, and municipalities all around Montezuma County. Clow works in Towaoc at the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, so he was able to get their support as well. They also talked with Crow Canyon Archeological Center, Dolores Public lands office, and the Montezuma County Landfill. Debra Barton, the landfill manager, has been an invaluable resource, said both Clow and Freels. The County landfill is an important partner, said Clow, as they have facilities that no one else has. A baler that they have is used to compact recyclables, such as cardboard and paper, and the county is in the process of building a new maintenance building. The grant money that the recycling initiative received will help to expand that facility. “ We will have dry storage space for paper and cardboard, which is a big hurdle for this plan. We don’t always have enough to ship, so we need to store it in a dry place. The quality of what arrives in Arizona influences how much money we get back for it,” Clow said. The paper and cardboard to be recycled gets shipped to Snowflake, Arizona where there is a paper mill that uses recycled fiber. They get a price per ton based on whether it’s cardboard or mixed paper. The revenues received from the recycled paper and cardboard will offset the trucking costs to Arizona. They would eventually like to steer those revenues into the hauling costs for Baker Sanitation and back into the landfill. “ We use their (the landfill’s) equipment and facilities,” said Clow. The mixed metals that are being deposited into the recycling bins will go to Belt Salvage, south of the M and M truck stop in Cortez. In the future, the Four Corners Recycling Initiative hopes to expand to local, private businesses and get them more involved. They would also like to get every school in Montezuma County involved. “Right now, paper and cardboard is 35 percent of the waste stream nationwide,” said Clow. He and Freels estimate that the number is the same in Montezuma County. “If we can divert 20 percent of what’s going into the landfill, then that adds significant life onto that landfill, which helps with planning and taxes.” The State of Colorado has instituted a landfill tax, which is used to create the recycling grant, which is then used to stimulate recycling in areas like ours. A lot of people have asked about what to do with glass and plastic. “ We had to start with things that we could prove were sustainable,” said Clow. “ We started with the moneymakers.” He said that not much money is made on plastic and glass because more is paid out getting it recycled and shipped than you get back on them. “ We would like to find a way to use glass and plastic locally,” said Clow. Freels went on to say that they hope to have a facility that will pulverize glass and maybe use it in a road base. Also, they are looking into partnering with other organizations and companies to find a cheaper way to ship recycled plastic. Here are the guidelines for the recyclables that you can put in the bin: 1. Mixed Paper includes newspaper and newspaper supplements, white paper, all colored paper (including neon), junk mail

(including envelopes with windows), phone books, magazines, and catalogs. (They appreciate removal of staples and paper clips, but it is not required.) They don't accept light cardboard, such as egg cartons, cereal boxes, or six-pack holders. 2. Corrugated cardboard is cardboard with a wavy center section between the outside and inside layers. They ask that you please break down boxes so they are flat. They don't accept waxy cardboard either. 3. Mixed Metal includes steel (tin) cans and aluminum cans. They ask that you rinse out the cans but you don't need to remove the labels. They also would like for you to pinch the open end of all 'tin' cans so that aluminum cans cannot slip inside of them. Any electronics or appliances that you have can be taken to the Montezuma County Landfill, not to this recycling bin. The program's viability and success will be jeopardized, they said, if you contaminate the recycling bins with nonrecyclable products. Josh Munson, social studies teacher at the middle school, said that the kids are really embracing the recycling program. "It's only been a week, and the mixed paper and cardboard bins already had to be emptied." Having the individual bins in each room helps, Munson said. It keeps kids aware of the need to recycle. Munson also said that the tool kit that is being offered to them by the Four Corners Recycling Initiative hasn't been used yet, but "we plan to incorporate it into our curriculum soon." " The communities are really ready for this," said Ogburn.

Aug. 29, 2008

DOLORES STAR

Recycling Initiative steps up countywide opportunities

BY TJ HOLMES

If you recycle, the Four Corners Recycling Initiative wants to make it easier for you. If you don't recycle, the Four Corners Recycling Initiative wants to make it easy for you.

As of Sept. 1, 22-foot-long bright-green roll-off containers will be open to the public at the Dolores Public Lands Office, Mancos schools and the Montezuma County Landfill. The group also has containers for institutional use at Dolores schools, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and in Towaoc for the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe, as well as two additional containers to use as swap outs or at a future site.

Each container has three sections, each marked for cardboard, for mixed paper and for mixed metals, the commodities on which the initiative is focusing. Although plastics and glass are not being accepted right now, wildlife technician Eric Freels and silviculturist Ashton Hargrave - both part of the office's "green team" hope that's where recycling efforts are headed.

All Forest Service districts have a sustainable operations program, Freels said this week at the Dolores Public Lands Office, part of a nation wide effort by the agency to become more sustainable. He said the green team's challenge has been to find ways to bring sustainable practices to the office, which produces a lot of paper waste, like any office or school. For two years, since the new office opened in the fall of 2006, employees have been transporting recyclable material to Durango, he said.

The idea of a county-wide recycling program started to take shape. This spring, a goal: How can we make recycling an opportunity for this community?

Freels said Hargrave calls Deb Barton, manager of the county landfill, "the lynchpin in the whole program." The existing infrastructure there is key to the sustainability of the program, he said.

The landfill has been baling cardboard for the city of Cortez since September 1996, Barton said Wednesday, and it is, in fact, the first bale-fill site in Colorado. A 3-foot-by-4 foot-by-5-foot bale of cardboard weighs about 1,200 to 1,250 pounds.

Money from the grant awarded the Four Corners Recycling Initiative comes from the surcharge charged by all landfills in Colorado. What people pay to drop off their trash comes out to 99 cents per ton, Barton said. Part of that goes to the Hazardous Substance Release Fund, which pays for clean-up of hazardous sites if the responsible party cannot be found; part goes to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Hazardous and Solid Waste Division; and part goes to the Resource Recycling Economic Opportunity Fund, which is intended to help small, rural communities develop, fund and get the infrastructure for recycling opportunities.

"My hope is that it will pay all the costs to be at least break-even, and I also hope it starts paying to start transporting from Dolores, for example, to the landfill, then to a profit-share between the landfill and Greater Dolores Action," Barton said. "My mission is not recycling, and I've been clear about that from the beginning. (My mission) is handling solid waste in an economic, environmental way. If (the initiative) can recycle material and it costs less to dispose of and we can do it without other environmental impacts, it makes sense to do that.

"We have to run the landfill as enter-prise fund, which means there is no taxpayer monies in the tax roll paying the bills; it's all from user fees," she said. "It has to make sense from a business perspective."

Information about the grant through the Department of Public Health and Environment came from Barton, Freels

said. Due the end of March, the team found out about the grant the end of February. Greater Dolores Action acts as the fiscal agent for the grant awarded to Four Corners Recycling Initiative and helped bring all the entities together.

"We envisioned it on a broad scale, countywide," Freels said. "We involved the landfill - they have the infrastructure. We took it to the commissioners to OK; we took it to the schools to OK, we got it OK'd by the Dolores Public Lands Office, by the San Juan Public Lands Office, Baker Sanitation - all the waste transport companies - Belt Salvage, the towns and the tribe. We got letters of support from them all."

Scott Clow, employed by the Ute Mountain Ute tribe and president of the Greater Dolores Action board, joined Freels and Hargrave to write the grant and submit it to the state. The group's application was accepted - one of 12 in the state. The Four Corners Recycling Initiative received \$91,212.

Spending started July 1, and that money has to be spent by June 30, 2009. Right off the top, \$50,000 went to purchase the eight recycling containers. Part of the money hired Stephanie Ogburn as a part-time development and outreach coordinator. She has been working with communities and teachers about educational opportunities that go hand-in-hand with the program.

"We will give the schools what they need (bins and containers), but the schools have to pay for transport," Freels said. "Les Baker (Baker Sanitation) has been a key partner. He offered affordable rates to the schools for the first year. He knows people in this area are demanding more recycling opportunities."

"The timing is perfect," he said. "The teachers are ready; the community is ready."

The educational component of the recycling program is why the group focused on the county's schools, Ogburn said. Her job is getting the word out to communities and helping schools formulate educational programs to do around recycling.

"That's key - to help the schools. I can't emphasize that enough," Freels said. "The education component is huge, and we want to be able to take advantage the boards are giving us to come into the schools."

"It's an educational opportunity as well as a way to collect all the commodities produced at the schools," Ogburn added. "Mixed paper is a big step forward. No one here was offering (to recycle it), so it was all going to the landfill."

Mixed paper includes newspapers, glossy/catalog paper, white and colored paper - "even neon" - junk mail and envelopes with windows, "basically all paper except paper board like cereal boxes and manila envelopes."

Each school will get a toolkit full of materials targeted to students in kindergarten through 12th grade, including books, videos, lesson plans and sample recyclable items. Each classroom at Dolores, Mancos Cortez Middle School and Cortez-Montezuma High School also will get recycling bins as well as rolling containers that allow students to transport items to the large containers.

The group expects contamination and challenges, and it expects to explain why only paper, cardboard and mixed metals (aluminum and steel) now and not yet plastic or glass, Freels said.

"We're taking baby steps," he stressed. "We want to ask people to recycle responsibly and help minimize the problems."

The initiative hopes to not only get the program off the ground but nurture it, make it pay to grow itself; in a word, make it sustainable. Glass and plastic recycling may be in the county's future if the group has anything to say about it.

Right now, Dolores teachers and students have access to their own recycling container, and Dolores residents have the option of dropping off their materials at the public lands office. Opening Dolores' container to the public would end up costing the district money to clean up as well as being a potential safety issue, Superintendent Mark MacHale said Tuesday.

"The experience we've had with trash in the past (shows) that people aren't very responsible at times," MacHale said. "We would prefer them to use the (container at the) public lands office and hope that in the future there will be another site in town for folks to use."

"We generate a lot of paper waste and quite a bit of metal, and we look forward to recycling those products," he said. "In the past we have had recycling efforts by the kids and teachers, who had to drive to Durango, and they're really looking forward to not having to drive to Durango."

MacHale said Ogburn had met with elementary teachers already and planned a meeting with secondary teachers this week.

"Education of the kids is important, but we're also trying to reach out to the whole community," Ogburn said.

Article in the Cortez Journal

8/5/2008 6:00:00 AM

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Initiative helps more people recycle garbage

Melinda Green
Journal Staff Writer

Reduce, re-use, recycle. That's the message that a new recycling initiative is hoping to get out in Montezuma County.

Recycling will be expanded and made easier for residents of Montezuma County under the new Four Corners Recycling Initiative, which got underway July 1.

Eric Freels, a wildlife technician at the Dolores Public Lands Office, helped get the ball rolling by writing a \$91,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Stephanie Ogburn is the part-time outreach and development coordinator.

"The Public Lands was the catalyst, but we partnered with all the entities, so it's really a community effort," Freels said. "There has been so much anticipation. We're getting calls already from people wanting to know when this will be available."

The goal is to have recycling containers available by the first of September.

The recycling initiative will use most of the grant to purchase eight 30-yard roll-off recycling containers, to be placed in six locations. The 22-foot-long containers have compartments for mixed metals, mixed paper and cardboard.

The containers for public drop-off will be located at the Dolores Public Lands Office, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores; the Montezuma County Landfill, 26100 County Road F, Cortez; and Mancos Public Schools, 395 W. Grand Ave., Mancos.

In addition, containers for specific businesses, and not open to the public, will be located at the Dolores Public Schools, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and at Towaoc near the casino and travel center.

Cortez Middle School and Montezuma-Cortez High School will have 3-yard containers just for mixed paper. The City of Cortez already provides recycling for other products.

"Part of the initiative is educational. We want to get the educational component out to the kids," Freels said. The program will be buying 12.5 gallon bins for the classrooms for Dolores and Mancos schools. Cafeterias will also have bins.

"We want to take advantage of those teachable moments with kids," Ogburn explained. "When they ask 'Why does the cafeteria have these bins?' we want them to understand why we recycle." She is developing curriculum materials about recycling for teachers to use in the classrooms.

Recycling will not only be made easier by being in more locations, but more types of material will be able to be recycled under the new program.

For the first time in Montezuma County, mixed paper can be accepted for recycling, Ogburn said. This includes newspapers, junk mail, copy paper, magazines, catalogs and phone books. Not accepted are manila (beige) colored paper, brown paper sacks, egg cartons or paperboard, such as cereal boxes and six-pack containers.



[+ click to enlarge](#)

Journal/Sam Green
A pile of old appliances is ready to be crushed into cubes at Belt Salvage.

Corrugated cardboard will also be accepted. This would include moving boxes or any cardboard that is corrugated or has ridges. The recycling program cannot accept cardboard with a waxy coat, cardboard that is wet or is contaminated with a food product.

The third category of recyclables being accepted by the program will be mixed metals. This includes all aluminum cans such as those used for beverages, and steel (tin) cans, such as those for pet food, fruits and vegetables. They ask that cans be rinsed out. Other steel or metal products will also be accepted.

The public can help, Ogburn said, by sorting their recyclables in the appropriate bin, and not throwing in miscellaneous trash.

Many people will want to know why they can't accept plastic or glass, Freels said. It comes down to economics and the infrastructure within the county for handling waste products. Belt Salvage has the equipment to handle metals and the landfill has the ability to handle paper and cardboard.

The grant wasn't large enough to purchase any new equipment to pulverize glass or bale plastic, so for right now, those products can't be accepted, he said.

Prices for mixed metals are high right now, and Belt Salvage will pay for the metal, with all of those proceeds to go back to the program to fund the trash roll-off pickup by Baker Sanitation, Freels said. For paper, the program will profit share with the county landfill to help pay their manpower and machinery costs.

"It's a win-win situation because this recycling will extend the life of the landfill, too," Freels said, and landfill manager Deborah Barton has been very supportive.

"The grant will help us expand or establish participation in recycling in the rural communities, at the same time it expands jobs," Freels said. Another challenge is that the grant money is only seed money to get started, so the program needs to be self-supporting.

While residents of Cortez have had curbside pickup of glass, newspapers, cardboard and aluminum cans, the only way for rural residents to recycle has been to take their items to a bin in the parking lot of the Justice Building at Empire and Mildred Street in Cortez. This new program will put a recycling center closer for most county residents.

Partners are Greater Dolores Action, Montezuma County, the county landfill, the towns, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Dolores, Mancos and Cortez school districts, Belt Salvage, Baker Sanitation, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, and the Dolores Public Lands Office.

The non-profit Greater Dolores Action is the grant administrator and fiscal agent for the grant. Throughout the state, \$1.3 million was awarded for the recycling effort. It was funded with a surcharge on landfill fees.

Freels and Ogburn hope to receive more grant money in future years, too, to continue and expand the county's recycling efforts.

"The energy consumption savings is huge for recycling," Freels noted. "It costs 60 percent less energy to recycle steel over the original. As a nation, we need to start paying attention to that."

"It makes sense from an environmental standpoint and for natural resources," Ogburn said. "We live in a place with such an abundance of resources, it makes sense to conserve that."

"As recycling becomes more pervasive, we hope people will become more thoughtful about buying products that can be recycled," Ogburn said. Freels and Ogburn also encouraged people to buy goods made of recycled products to create an economically feasible market.

Copy of the Info board posted at all the recycle bins –

FOUR CORNERS RECYCLING INITIATIVE

RECYCLE METAL, CARDBOARD, AND PAPER HERE

WHAT YOU CAN RECYCLE	EXAMPLES	WHAT YOU CAN'T RECYCLE
MIXED METALS: ALUMINUM, STEEL, AND TIN - RINSE OUT BEFORE RECYCLING	 <p>SODA CANS, CANNED FOOD TINS, PET FOOD CANS</p>	NO ALUMINUM FOIL
CARDBOARD: CORRUGATED CARDBOARD ONLY	 <p>BROKEN DOWN MOVING BOXES</p>	NO DRY FOOD BOXES SUCH AS CEREAL AND CRACKER BOXES; NO WAX-COATED CARDBOARD
MIXED PAPER: ALL PAPER	 <p>PRINTER PAPER, MAGAZINES, GLOSSY PRINT ADS, NEWSPAPER, JUNK MAIL</p>	NO MANILA FOLDERS; NO CEREAL BOXES; NO EGG CARTONS; NO SIX-PACK CONTAINERS

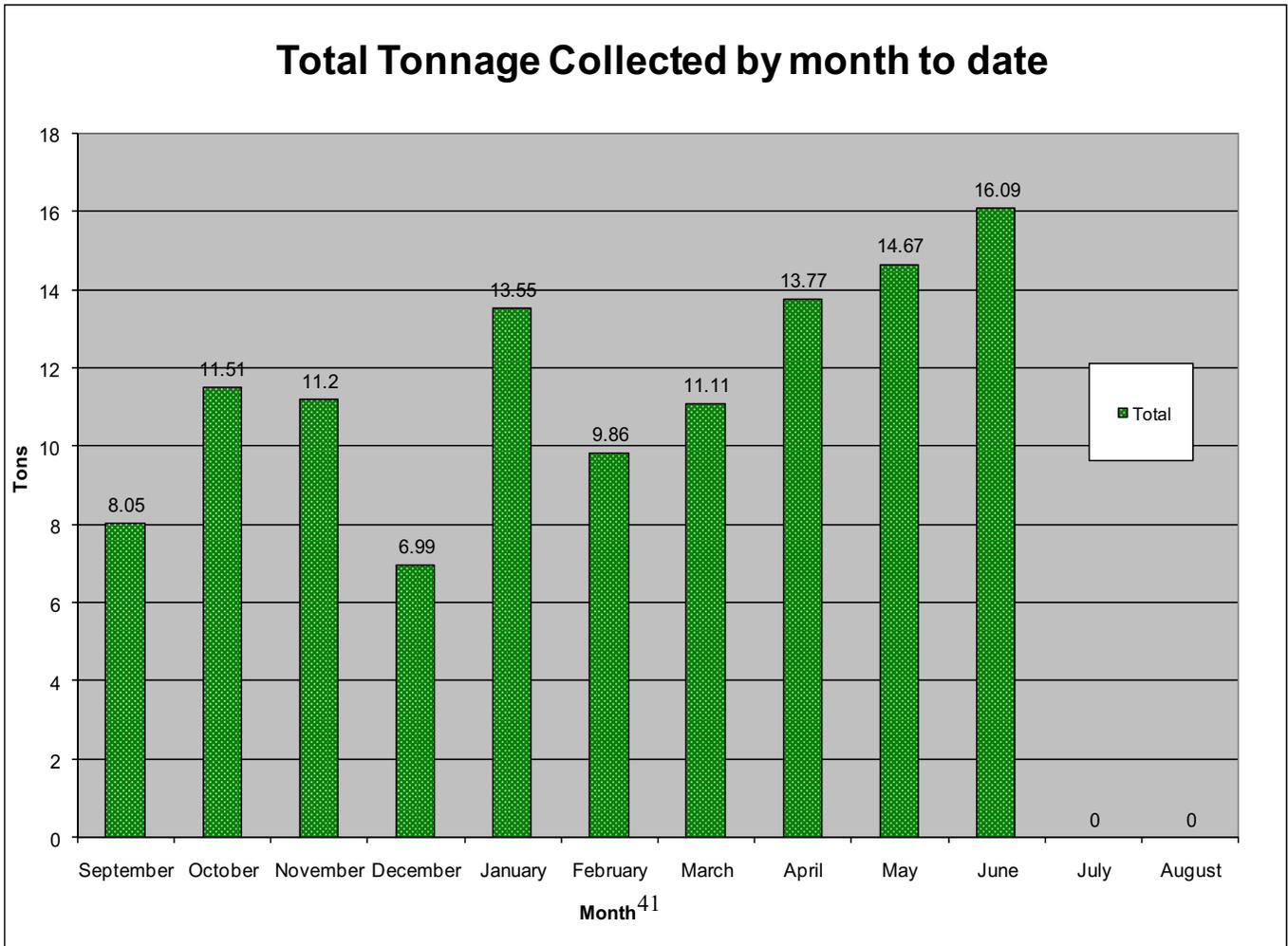
THE STARTUP COSTS FOR THIS RECYCLING INITIATIVE WERE FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF COLORADO. IN ORDER FOR THE PROJECT TO BE SUSTAINABLE, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

PLEASE DO NOT PUT NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS INTO THE RECYCLING BINS

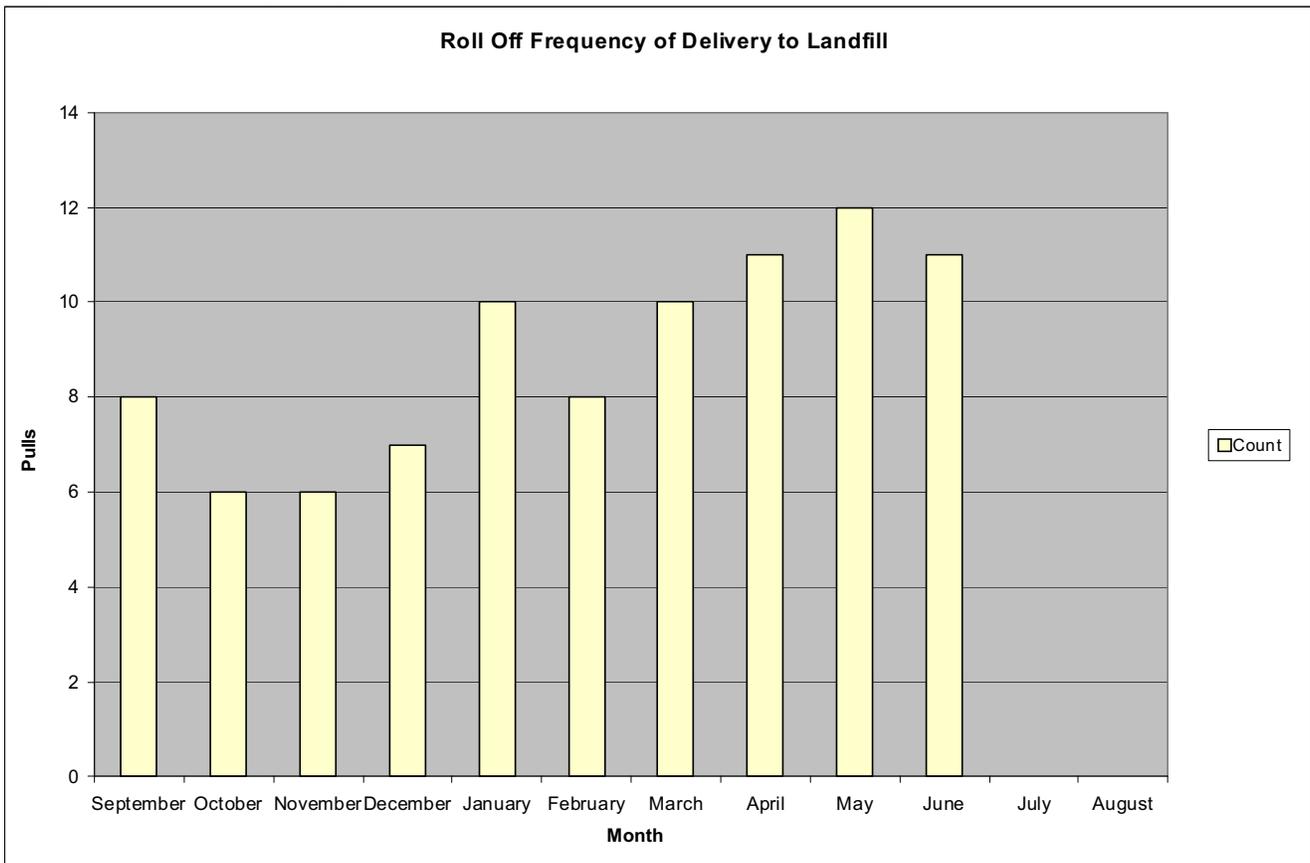
DOING THIS GREATLY INCREASES COSTS FOR THE RECYCLING PROGRAM.

www.4cornersrecycles.org

Graph of the tonnage collected by month:



Graph of the number of “pulls” per month:



Graph of the tonnage recycled at each location (Since January):

