Terra Firma
recycling
201 West Indiana Trinidad, CO 81082 719-859-3998

I. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Organization Name: Terra Firma Recycling
Project Title: Recycling and Waste Diversion in Las Animas County
Project Coordinator: Kelli Van Matre
E-mail address and Phone Number: terrafirmarecycling@yahoo.com or 719-859-3998
Person Completing Report: Kelli Van Matre
Email address and Phone Number of Person Completing Report: 719-859-2523 or terrafirmarecycling@yahoo.com.

II. WORK PLAN

Deliverable	Completion Date	Comments (*if deliverable was not completed, please explain why and what progress has been made*)
Locate, contract, and purchase horizontal baler	7/31/2014	
Locate, contract, and purchase inline pit conveyor.	7/31/2014	
Dig, construct, and complete pit for conveyor	9/15/2014	
Pour concrete slab	9/22/2014	
Horizontal baler delivered, unloaded, installed, and connected to electricity	10/6/2014	
Pit conveyor delivered , unloaded, installed and connected to electricity	10/20/2014	
Sorting conveyor installed	-	We had to remove control panel from conveyor system to repair the baler. Baler was delivered w/ broken control panel. Trying to build or purchase new control panel
Magnet installed	12/29/2014	
Purchase pick-up truck	8/5/2014	
Purchase trailer	8/5/2014	
Work with Twin Enviro Waste Services to increase customer	6/1/2015	

participation by offering a cardboard recycling pick-up service to 15 major generators of cardboard and other recyclables.		
To accomplish the goal of processing 300 ton a year, Terra Firma will strive to process per quarter, 45 tons of cardboard, 1.25 tons of aluminum, 3 tons of steel, 1.25 tons of plastic #1, 2.5 tons of plastic #2	6/1/2015 and Ongoing	Terra Firma is on track to process 45 tons of cardboard per quarter; however, we are still striving to divert the other projected amounts of material listed.
Participate in several yearly events to include: Earth Day at Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site, The Water Festival, Rural Philanthropy Days, College for Kids, Labor Day Parade, Kids in the Park Days, and Artocade. Terra Firma will bring bins to these events to do on-site recycling demonstrations.	6/1/2015 and Ongoing	
Present to schools throughout the county to encourage participation	6/1/2015 and Ongoing	

III. PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Executive Summary

The intent of Terra Firma Recycling (the Hub), is to efficiently and completely develop a Hub-and-Spoke recycling infrastructure that can potentially serve 16,000 people within a 75 mile radius of Trinidad, Colorado, and through productive management divert recyclable materials that would otherwise be treated as discards from the City of Trinidad Landfill. The Hub serves 18 communities (the Spokes) including: Trinidad, Hoehne, Jansen, Starkville, Segundo, Cokedale, Weston, Bon Carbo, Ludlow, Aguilar, Trinchera, Branson, Model, Tyrone, Thatcher, Delhi, Villegreen, and Kim. The collection process is a free voluntary drop-off service located at 201 West Indiana Avenue in Las Animas County, Colorado. Plastic #1-#7, cardboard, chipboard/ paper, and household metals are collected, separated, baled, and then transported to designated material recovery facilities for processing. By diverting these materials from the City of Trinidad Landfill, not only is a significant reduction in our local landfill being realized, but the life of our landfill is being extended for future generations.

In order to further develop the existing Hub-and-Spoke recycling infrastructure in Las Animas County, grant funds for increased storage, greater processing capabilities, and promotion/ transportation were utilized. Since receiving the RREO grant, we have purchased and installed a horizontal baler and pit conveyor as well as a pickup truck and trailer. The horizontal baler and pit conveyor have significantly improved the efficiency of our operation. We are able to process larger amounts of material in less time and with less cost. Because of this, we are able to work with Twin Enviro Waste Services of Trinidad and process the cardboard that is generated from their cardboard route. We are building a removable cover on our trailer, which will allow us to retrieve mixed recyclable material from recyclers around Las Animas County. Having these abilities has tremendously increased the amount of recyclable material that is being processed as well as the number of individuals and businesses participating.

Prior to receiving the RREO grant, our processing capabilities were limited and we did not have the means to retrieve or haul material. This was very challenging and we have nearly overcome this obstacle. Terra Firma is the first and only recycling facility in Las Animas County and for this reason recycling is somewhat of a new concept to many individuals in our area. The challenge that arises because of this is lack of education and understanding of the importance of recycling. We have to educate many residents of our community. Secondly, because there was not an established facility in the past, refuge companies did not offer recycling to the major generators of recyclable material and most of the recyclable material was going to landfill. Because of this we are working "from the ground up" to develop relationships and routes to harvest the recyclables produced by the major generators. There is a significant amount of uncollected material in our area that can be collected, processed, and recycled, which will make Terra Firma sustainable in the long term.

Since opening in January of 2014, Terra Firma has processed 370,000 pounds of recyclable material. Recycling benefits the environment in several ways: it reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills, conserves natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals, prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials, saves energy, reduces greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global climate change, and helps sustain the environment. The public benefits from Terra Firma as it assists in conserving landfill space that most individuals utilize and need. The environmental impact can be found below. Additionally 2 part-time jobs have been created and end user markets are receiving recyclable material from Terra Firma that would otherwise be discarded.

Overall, with the financial assistance of the RREO grant, our community, and other granting entities, Terra Firma has been successful in achieving its stated goals to add concrete to an existing building for storage, acquire a horizontal baler that will allow for greater processing and efficiency, acquire a pick-up that will enable us to attend community events such as parades, festivals, and school functions, and work with Twin Enviro to retrieve larger amounts of recyclable material and increase production.

2. Project Description & Overview of Work Completed

The project goals included: add concrete to an existing building for storage, acquire a horizontal baler that will allow for greater processing and efficiency, acquire a pick-up that will enable us to attend community events such as parades, festivals, and school functions, and work with Twin Enviro to retrieve larger amounts of recyclable material and increase production. Once Terra Firma was notified of being a recipient of the RREO grant, we immediately began looking for the requested equipment. We worked with several recycling equipment brokers throughout the country in search of the equipment. After several weeks of searching, we located the equipment. With the help of employees and friends, we prepped the ground and buildings in order to be able to install the equipment when it arrived. Upon arrival of the equipment, we worked diligently to install and repair the damage equipment. Damage occurred during shipment. Within four months of receiving notice of the RREO grant, all the equipment requested was purchased, installed, and fully functional. At this point, we informed Twin Enviro of Terra Firma's ability to process more material, especially cardboard. For the next several months, we worked closely with Twin Enviro and the community to devise a plan for a cardboard route. In the meantime, we attended many community events promoting and education individuals about recycling and the services we offer. As the project came together, all the significant goals were achieved in the stated timeframe and most importantly we implemented the cardboard route with Twin Enviro.

This project was important for our community as it "laid the foundation" for recycling in Las Animas County. Terra Firma is the first and only recycling facility in Las Animas County. At this time there are nearly 40 businesses recycling and 500 individuals. This community involvement demonstrates the need for recycling. Recycling will be the way of the future and without Terra Firma; we don't believe there will be another recycling facility in Las Animas County due to cost barriers and lack of local government contributions. For this reason, the existence of Terra Firma is imperative and it benefits the community and Colorado in several

ways. There is direct relationship between people recycling and increased environmental benefits. Recycling benefits the environment is several ways: it reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills, conserves natural resources such as timber, water, and minerals, and prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials. Because recycling reduces pollution and ground contamination, it betters our health and goes hand in hand with human services. The public benefits from this project as it assists in conserving landfill space that most individuals utilize and need. By recycling more items, there is less going into the landfill, thus conserving more space and extending the life of our landfill for generations to come.

3. Summary of Results

Since opening in January of 2014, Terra Firma has processed 370,000 pounds of material. The environmental effects of recycling this amount of material can be found below. We believe this is significant as the community has voluntarily brought most of the material to Terra Firma. As a result of increased production we have 2 part time employees. All of our metal is bought by a local scrap yard and the remaining recyclables are sent out to MRFs, which is another economic benefit. The approximate 1655.65 yards of landfill space saved by Terra Firma is landfill space that is available for actual trash and this saves the City of Trinidad money as they do not incur the cost of covering this valuable space. The response from the community has been rewarding. Many individuals (approximately 500) and businesses (approximately 40) participate in recycling simply because it is the right thing to do. Several organization including Raton, New Mexico Public Works Recycling, Las Animas County, Town of Aguilar, Town of Starkville, Las Animas County Health Department, New Mexico Recycling Coalition, Trinidad Economic Development, Trinidad Community Foundation, South Central Council of Government, Trinidad State Junior College, City of Trinidad, ReGroup, and Twin Enviro Waste Services of Trinidad have contributed to the progress made by Terra Firma.

	Water/Gallons	Oil/Barrels	Trees	Landfill Space / Cubic Yards	Electricity/KW	BTU's of Energy
Cardboard	501,130.00	787.49	1,217.03	644.31	27,920.10	6.6 million per ton
Paper	623,140.00	151.33	1,335.30	409.49	53,501.02	10.2 million per ton
Aluminum		75.79		19.14	26,796.00	237 million per ton
Tin		10.84		24.08	15,652.00	10.9 million per ton
Plastic		277.10		510.00	98,158.00	98 million per ton
Total	**1,131,270.00**	**1,361.95**	**2,567.33**	**1655.622**	**245002.12**	**356,100,000.00**

4. Summary of Unanticipated Outcomes or Roadblocks

Unfortunately, the market price of all the recyclables we collect has fallen significantly. We did not anticipate such a decline in pricing. We've supplemented our operation with grants, RREO Rebate, and donation to compensate for the market pricing.

5. Communication of Project Findings

We've communicated our results of this project through our website, social media, local news and radio, presentations, mass emails, and postings at the facility. We plan to continue to attend community events, school functions, and festivals to raise awareness of recycling in our area. We hope to be able to work with the City of Trinidad to insert an informational sheet about recycling in the monthly utility billing and post recycling signage at the local landfill. We will continue to work with Twin Enviro to increase the number of commercial cardboard route participants through advertising in the local newspaper and radio.

6. Future Impact of the Project

As our community becomes aware of the available recycling opportunities, we will see increased recycling participation and diversion. We anticipate more businesses to take part in the commercial cardboard route which will also increase diversion. Because we are striving to educate children, we believe that in the future the act of recycling will become part of the culture of our community. The more material that is recycled the more landfill space is conserved, which every member of community uses and needs regardless if they recycle or not. The downstream effects are the sale of recyclable material, conserved landfill space, decreased City cost of covering material, and decreased tipping fees for Twin Enviro. We can transfer our process to other rural recycling facilities that are privately owned and operated. We focus on bringing stakeholders "to the table", being efficient, and precisely calculating our income and cost. Because we do not operate off of tax revenue, Terra Firma is lean and concise it its day-to-day operations to be sustainable in the long-term.

7. Financial Summary

Grant Budget Table Terra Firma Recycling

Description	Grant Funds Spent	Matching/In Kind Amount (if any)	Total Amount
Personnel Salaries	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Fringe Benefits	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Tuition/Fees	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Travel Costs	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Materials/Supplies/Equipment(under $5000)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Equipment Purchases (over $5000)	$79,115.00	$56,000.00	$135,115.00
Contractors/Subcontractors	$16,250.00	$22,950.00	$39,200.00
Consultants	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Training/Education	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Marketing/Advertising	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Other Direct Costs	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Indirect Costs	$3,968.20	$0.00	$0.00
Total Project Cost:	**$99,333.20**	**$78,950.00**	**$178,283.20**

Total award amount: $99,333.20

8. Conclusion

The Board of Directors would like to extend our sincerest thank you to the Department of Public Health and Environment and the Pollution Prevention Advisory Board for your contribution to recycling in Las Animas County. Without your contribution comprehensive recycling would have been very difficult, if not possible, to achieve.

Some of the most current programs that Terra Firma is implementing include:

- **Recycling and Art Program** with a local artist Rich Columbo Integrates the arts, recycling, and kids. Different sculptures and pictures will be created using recycled and upcycled material.

- **Paint Recycling**: We are now accepting used paint in partnership with PaintCare.

- **Commercial Cardboard Route** with Twin Enviro Waste Services: Local businesses can participate in a commercial cardboard recycling route.

- **Construction Material Salvage**: We are creating program where usable material such as construction material, landscape rocks, etc. will be diverted from the landfill and reused.

9. Appendix
    a. Grant Metrics Table
        i. See Excel spreadsheet.
    b. Community Leader Contact Information
        i. Mac Louden-County Commissioner 719-946-5530. maclouden@gmail.com
        ii. Kerry Taube- County Health Inspector 719 859-1796 ktaube@la-h-health.org
        iii. Joe Reorda-City of Trinidad Mayor 719-846-9843 (Ask for Mayor)
    c. Manuals, Brochures, Print Advertisements, Pictures, Educational Materials, etc.
        i. CU In The Community Flyer
        ii. Letter from Branson School Student
        iii. Upcycled Sign from Rich Columbo
        iv. Earth Day Green Gala
        v. Picture of Truck and Trailer working in Raton, NM
        vi. Terra Firma Parade Entry-1st Place
        vii. Terra Firma Launch Front Page Article
        viii. Hospital Goes Green
        ix. County Commissioner Article
        x. Secret Shopper Article
        xi. Earth Barrel Article #1
        xii. Earth Barrel Article #2
        xiii. Large Terra Firma Article-Recycling in Trinidad
        xiv. Water Festival Presentation

Grant Metrics Table

Date project fully operational (if applicable): June-15

Based on deliverables. Provide the month during which the grant project increased diversion/created jobs/increased number of customers.

Diversion Rates:

Choose one material per blue box from the drop-down menu provided. If your material is not listed, enter a description in the "Other" box.
Only list materials diverted as a direct result of the grant project. Must be listed in tons. See tab labeled "Conversion Tables" if needed.

Material Diverted #1: Cardboard

"Other" Material:

	Tons Diverted
July-14	4.19
August-14	4.05
September-14	4.8
October-14	4.7
November-14	4.17
December-14	4.2
January-15	4.3
February-15	4.375
March-15	4.945
April-15	5
May-15	5.49
June-15	9.1
Total	59.52

Material Diverted #2: Newspaper/Office paper

"Other" Material:

	Tons Diverted
July-14	4.95
August-14	5.1
September-14	5.7
October-14	6.3
November-14	8.7
December-14	8.8
January-15	5.26
February-15	4.24
March-15	3.3
April-15	3.62
May-15	4.96
June-15	
Total	60.93

Material Diverted #3: Plastics (#1-7)

"Other" Material:

	Tons Diverted
July-14	0.27
August-14	0.25
September-14	0.25
October-14	0.25
November-14	0.25
December-14	0.48
January-15	0.76
February-15	1.1
March-15	2.1
April-15	1.2
May-15	1.12
June-15	1.2
Total	9.23

Material Diverted #4: Aluminum / Steel cans

"Other" Material:

	Tons Diverted
July-14	1080
August-14	972
September-14	560
October-14	1020
November-14	1456
December-14	2395
January-15	1054
February-15	800
March-15	1090
April-15	2000
May-15	1197
June-15	1620
Total	15244

Material Diverted #5:

"Other" Material:

	Tons Diverted
July-14	
August-14	
September-14	
October-14	
November-14	
December-14	
January-15	
February-15	
March-15	
April-15	
May-15	
June-15	
Total	0

Material Diverted #6:

"Other" Material:

	Tons Diverted
July-14	
August-14	
September-14	
October-14	
November-14	
December-14	
January-15	
February-15	
March-15	
April-15	
May-15	
June-15	
Total	0

Material Diverted #7:

"Other" Material:

	Tons Diverted
July-14	
August-14	
September-14	
October-14	
November-14	
December-14	
January-15	
February-15	
March-15	
April-15	
May-15	
June-15	
Total	0

Material Diverted #8:

"Other" Material:

	Tons Diverted
July-14	
August-14	
September-14	
October-14	
November-14	
December-14	
January-15	
February-15	
March-15	
April-15	
May-15	
June-15	
Total	0

End use of diverted materials:
Describe where materials are going (e.g. MRF, new products, reuse)

Cardboard - Bio Pappel or Sage Recycling (Long Beach California); Mixed Paper - Centennial Recycling or Sage Recycling (Long Beach California); Plastic #1-#7 Alpine Recycling; Scrap Metal - Mat

Number of Permanent Jobs Created:
Include full-time & part time paid positions.
1 FTE = 40 Hours Per Week

2 PT

Type of Permanent Job(s) Created:
Provide titles of jobs created

2 PT Sorters

Average Salaries of Jobs Created:
Average of all jobs created

Less than $15,000

Average Monthly Customers:
Estimate or refer to customer list

	Avg. Monthly Amount
July-14	450
August-14	450
September-14	450
October-14	450
November-14	475
December-14	475
January-15	475
February-15	500
March-15	500
April-15	515
May-15	515
June-15	515
Avg / FY 15	481

CU IN THE COMMUNITY

SPRING 2014

Beyond Recycling:

Why trash matters and which actions make the biggest difference

Have we placed too much emphasis on just moving our trash from one can to another? Kate Bailey from Eco-Cycle will discuss why recycling matters but why it won't change the world. She will explore the larger economic and social opportunities that come from rethinking our entire relationship with our "stuff.

DATE:	Thursday, April 10
TIME:	7 p.m.
PLACE:	Massari Theater
	Trinidad State Junior College
COST:	$4 for adults
	$3 for seniors & children
	TSJC students free with ID

Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance at the Trinidad Community Foundation, 134 W. Main St., Suite 24. Open M-F noon-4 p.m. Cash and checks only.

All ticket sales will benefit Terra Firma Recycling.

Office for University Outreach
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

eco-cycle

TRINIDAD STATE COLORADO

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"They should focus more on reading, writing, spelling, language and math. A lot of what's taught is irrelevant for living out here."
– Bimbi Redlich, owner/stylist, Main Attractions (Raton)

"My kids hated the cafeteria because it was prepackaged food."
– Jeania Martin, Purgatoire River Trading Company (Trinidad)
"Some schools in Denver have students growing gardens, then the food's used in the school-lunch program."
– Carol Potter, president, Trinidad Community Farmers Market
(in photo, Carol is on left, Jeania on right)

"Change the schools into year-round, public-access facilities with beneficial programs for children and the community. Day care, summer camps, adult-ed, 4-H, scouting: Everybody would line up!"
– Kris Ulrich, program coordinator, Citizens for the Developmentally Disabled (Raton)

Eco-Cycle presentation promotes recycling in region

By Scott Mastro
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Boulder, Colorado's Eco-Cycle is one of the largest non-profit recyclers in the USA. With an international reputation as a pioneer and innovator in resource conservation, the company sent Eco-Cycle community ambassador Kate Bailey and her husband, Mark Bailey, also with Eco-Cycle, to Trinidad State's Massari Theater, as part of Colorado University's "CU in the Community" speaker series. Kate was on campus to speak about recycling, and she said, "Recycling is a community effort, but not only environmentally. Economically, recycling is big business."

Created in 1976 by everyday residents passionate about conserving natural resources, Eco-Cycle made Boulder one of the first 20 communities in the U.S. to offer curbside recycling. As a witness to Eco-Cycle's commitment to profitable green-business models, Kate said, "37 years on, Eco-Cycle is still driven by innovative actions."

Originally from Watertown, Conn., Kate moved to Durango, Colo. for awhile but soon tired of working for $6 an hour. So she went back to school for environmental studies, interned at Eco-Cycle while she was a student, then got hired when she graduated 10 years ago.

Speaking of Eco-Cycle's international ventures, Kate said, "I work with people around the world, developing recycling systems with zero-waste goals, challenging people to question, 'What is this thing we call trash?' Recycling is the best thing an individual can do to have a daily global im-

Scott Mastro / The Chronicle-News

Eco-Cycle's Kate Bailey, left, and Terra Firma's Kelli Van Matre meet at Trinidad State Junior College's Massari Theater to discuss community recycling.

pact." Recycling cleans air and water, saves limited natural resources and creates real jobs. "There are 10 times as many jobs in recycling as there are in landfills. When we recycle, nothing leaks into water supplies — there is no waste," said Kate.

Proceeds from her presentation went to local recyclers Kelli and Jeremy Van Matre, of Terra Firma Recycling, which is located behind the Masonic Cemetery on Nevada Street.

Kelli opened the program, saying, "Thanks for including Terra Firma in this presentation. In our first three months, Terra Firma has processed 45,000 pounds of material. Our intake is increasing nearly ev-

ery day, so we're off to a great start. We are tons a month this year." Since the company is still several bales short of filling its first load of cardboard, Kelly rallied the crowd by saying, "A big cardboard push would get us to our first load. We appreciate the community support we've received, from the City and the County, Trinidad Community Foundation, the Bar NI Foundation and businesses too numerous to name." And, as Kate did, Kelli emphasized, "Community involvement is essential to long-term recycling success."

Kate began her presentation by saying, "Eco-Cycle makes a business of recycling. We understand recycling's economic value and benefits. That's the message I've come to share. We take in all of Boulder County's recyclables. A community is what makes recycling happen. We're working to make recycling mandatory."

She then pointed out inefficiencies in current processes, saying, "Aluminum is mined in Australia, shipped to Iceland for processing, and then to the world. It takes a lot of wasted energy to do that." She continued by saying, "The simple answer is to motivate people by making recycling economically viable. Every year we throw away 4 billion pounds of paper and 11 billion pounds of metal. I could sell all of it." Recycling begins when a product is being made, so Eco-Cycle asks companies to look at how they design their products.

Kate pointed out some global dichotomies by saying, "We are 7 billion people on one planet, and we have a limited supply of trees and oil to make plastics. There is more gold in cell phones in landfills than the amount that will ever be mined." And a lot of blood is shed in the fight for precious things like diamonds, copper and timber," she said. "Forty percent of the world's conflicts are for resources yet governments continue to try to manage problems instead of finding workable solutions."

Thanks to organizations such as Eco-Cycle and Terra Firma, recycling has become progressively more mainstream, no longer simply part of a fringe movement. But even though Colorado is one of the most-educated states, it only recycles at a rate of 26 percent.

Kate emphasized, "80 percent of 'trash' is sellable material."

She encouraged Terra Firma to partner with Trinidad State, saying, "Students can volunteer and get course credit."

North American's also waste an awful lot of food, and Kate said, "40 percent of it gets thrown away. That's $25,000 a year for each family of four."

With mail, the waste is even more pronounced, and Kate said, "Three-fourths of everything the post office delivers is junk mail." With education and priority adjustments, however, all of these issues can be corrected.

"Hollywood is beginning to get onboard," Kate pointed out. "TV shows like The Modern World have recycling bins. Every day we recycle, the world truly does become a better place."

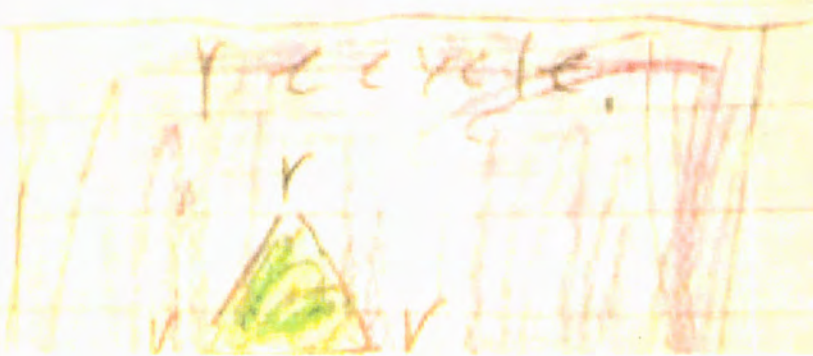
Eco-Cycle can be reached at 303-444-6634 and at recycle@ecocycle.org. Terra Firma Recycling and Waste Management is located at 2400 Nevada Avenue. The organization accepts recyclables Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Their phone number is 719-859-3998, and their email address is terrafirmarecycling@va-

7(3)

Dear Ms. Kelly Van Matrey

Thank you for taking your time to show us. How to recycle and about the three is: reuse, reduse and recycle. I had fun seeing how you make the bales for the trash and which things go in wht bins. You helped me a lot and you helped me to stop trash and recyclebles in landfills. We have to stop throwing away recyclebles.

Your friend,
Fernando Gonz
Branson School
5th grade



RECYCLE

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WELCOME TO
2015 EARTH DAY GR GALA
Thank You To This Year's Sponsors!
Terra Firma
recycling
WATER Station

IV2

Mother Earth celebrated in Trinidad Saturday

by Kimberly Adams

TRINIDAD — Mother Nature blessed the Spanish Peaks region with sunny, warm weather in time for a street festival Earth Day Green Gala held April 25 in front of the Trinidad Food Co-op on Elm Street and Maple Ave.

Live music by local bands Planet O!, Fly the Coop, and Moontribe set the tone for a day full of creative fun, including an interactive group art project for children overseen by Trinidad artist Rich Columbo.

"We have kids painting and collaging on these recycled paneling, and hopefully we're going to have a public place to install it when its complete," Columbo said.

Various local vendors showed off an eclectic array of hand made crafts and jewelry while a community bike ride was on going in the afternoon. Noah's Ark Animal Welfare Association held a vaccination clinic at the street fair.

The Earth Day Green Gala was sponsored by Trinidad Food Co-op, Terra Firma Recycling, Purgatoire Watershed Partnership, and Earth Mountain Education Farm in Weston, Colorado.

Justice Boyd (left) hula-hoops with David Reeves at the Earth Day street festival in front of the Trinidad Food Co-op on the corner of Elm Street and Maple Ave. ***Photo by Kimberly Adams***

EDUCATION

New members

Keep It Rollin'
1st Place
TRA 2014
recycling

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Don't throw stuff away – take it to Terra Firma Recycli

By Scott Mastro
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Kelli and Jeremy Van Matre opened The Water Station two years ago to make hauling water convenient and to provide Trinidad with pure drinking water. And now the couple has a new endeavor. "With a lot of encouragement and planning," Kelli says, "my husband, Jeremy, and I are opening Terra Firma Recycling, giving Trinidad a full-time recycling center. Recycling doesn't have to be inconvenient — people want to do the right thing. Terra Firma Recycling will strive to combine those goals."

"A handful of people have made recycling available here," Jeremy says. "Diane Hess and Devon McFarland have been organizing Regroup recycling events for the past several years, every couple months or so. From their example, Terra Firma Recycling will be a permanent, full-time recycling option opening this January."

"My father, Ken Dochter, taught me to use everything to its full capacity," Kelli says. "We joke that my father, Diane and Devon are the original [trailblazers] of recycling. They set the path we're following."

"It's Terra Firma's intention to take that example to its logical conclusion," Jeremy says. "Throwing everything in landfills has gotten us in trouble."

Beginning on January 2, 2014, people will be able to take their recyclables to 2400 Nevada Avenue. Paper products, plastics and metals will be accepted. The target date for the recycling of glass is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2014.

"People will bring their recyclables in three separate bundles — paper, plastic and metal. We'll track outreach that will hopefully include all of Las Animas County.

Scott Mastro / The Chro

Kelli, above, and Jeremy Van Matre started the Water Station at 2400 Nevada two years ago to serve people the grid and for anyone who wants high-quality drinking water. Kelli, below, operates the lift that will move la recyclables so that they can be compacted and shipped to companies that can re-use the recycled materi new products.

Big cities have costly automated separation machinery. Trinidad will have Kelli. "Kelli will be in charge of the compacting and baling," Jeremy says. "I'll

similar to those that The Water Station keeps: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday.

Kelli points out, "We hope to

towns of Aguilar and Thanks to you all."

She adds, "A lot of don't know how many items can be recycled

ENVIRONMENT

Hospital goes green with big recycling effort

By Steve Block
The Chronicle-News

Steve Block / The Chronicle-News

Partners in Mt. San Rafael Hospital's new recycling program pose behind the new recycling bins in the hospital's lobby. They include (L-R) Dominic Verquer of the Trinidad Ambulance District, Terra Firma's Kelli Van Matre, Paula Tripp of Century Savings and Loan, Hospital CEO Bob Quist, Renee Walton, R.N., Billy Strickland, Dr. David Cox, Leonora Garcia and George Holdershaw, both of Pioneer Natural Resources and Mark Hanson of The Angler's Alchemist.

The big blue and white recycling bins stood in a row in the lobby of Mount San Rafael Hospital Wednesday, as the hospital and its partners kicked off the new hospital recycling program. Plastics, aluminum, cardboard and paper will be collected in the bins, which will then be taken to Trinidad's Terra Firma Recycling.

A four-person Recycling Committee, consisting of the hospital's Chief Executive Officer Bob Quist, Dr. Andrea Doeden, Operating Room Services Director Renee Walton, R.N. and Billy Strickland, has been working to get the recycling program up and running. All of the hospital's department heads have been brought into the loop, and they'll spread the word to all of the hospital's staff. Walton said plans were in the works to also recycle glass, but those plans aren't finalized yet. The committee hopes to get at least 75 percent compliance from its staff in the effort, she said.

Nine containers are available and some will be placed in the hospital's clinic and surgical unit.

"We're going to start an initiative to go green facility wide as much as we can," Walton said. "In the kitchen we presently have Styrofoam, and we're going to disposables and recyclables, which will be amazing. Through the kind donations of everybody, we'll hopefully be able to recycle 100 percent of what we can recycle. We think 75 percent compliance would be a good goal at the start. We're start-

Continued on Page 2 ...

ing a whole campaign. This is the first part, getting the donations for the recycling bins. Through our Recycling Committee, we'll be rolling out a compliance encouragement initiative. Part of that is notifying the department managers. It's taken us a while to get this going, so I'm really excited that we're going to do this now."

Sponsors of the program include Dr. Andrea Doeden, Dr. Paul Tennery, Pioneer Natural Resources, The Café on Main Street, Dr. David Cox, Solo Anesthesia, The Anglers Alchemist, the Trinidad Ambulance District, Southern Colorado CRNA and Century Savings and Loan. Terra Firma Recycling is a big part of the recycling effort and is the destination for the materials until they're shipped to materials processing centers.

"We're hoping that this will spread community wide, and we're trying to be the pioneers in this," Walton said. "We'd like to encourage other local entities to start their own recycling, once they see that it's working well for us. So it's really exciting to be doing this."

Kelli Van Matre of Terra Firma Recycling said the firm isn't getting paid as much for recycled materials as it once was. The prices largely depend on the price of oil, and the recent decline in oil prices means that r materials also command low es. Terra Firma accepts dona recyclable materials, but it pay for them, she said.

"Generally speaking, all r material is valuable to some because you're saving it fron up a landfill and you're doin thing else with it," Van Mat "So it has that intangible va not always the monetary v you're looking for."

One of the recycling b kept in the hospital's ma encourage visitors to do the ongoing recycling ef

ecyclers call for residents to get involved

teve Block
Chronicle-News

ll it takes is a little personal commitment ake recycling a key part of any community. Van Matre of Trinidad's Terra Firma Re- ng, located at 2400 Arizona Ave., addressed sday's meeting of the County Board of Com- sioners and thanked the board for a recent r of support it provided for Terra Firma's t request to the state for a new recycling r.

an Matre said that, though the new baler ld be important in expanding Terra Firma's ations, the business was focused on getting e people involved in recycling unwanted erials. Terra Firma has been open for eight ks and has had more than 400 people bring in oximately 25,000 pounds of material. Several erent kinds of plastic, cardboard, chipboard recyclable metals have all been processed, gh sorting and baling the materials is a te- s job involving a lot of hand labor.

an Matre said many people have stepped o help get the job done. "We're working with ple in the community like Noah's Ark and th Mountain Farms," she said. "There are ple coming together here to help us see this cling project through to the end, because want it to succeed. We're helping some ple and they're helping us. We hope it keeps progressing as time goes on."

Van Matre stressed that Terra Firma is not a trash-hauling service competing with other such businesses. She said it wants local people to bring their recyclable materials directly to the facility near the city landfill. She said Terra Firma is already working with recyclers in Raton to combine on split truckloads of recycled material that are hauled to processing centers.

"The idea is to have the whole community recycling, at some point," she said. "We'd like to have waste companies offer curbside recycling, at least to the large producers of recycled material, such as the schools, hospital, nursing home and possibly the government facilities. The idea is to extend the life of our landfill and to conserve resources. We had to start somewhere, so we started with a vertical bailer, which is inefficient and has to be manually fed, and then we operate it. This grant, hopefully, will give us funds for an automatically fed baler, so instead of feeding it piece by piece, there's a pit conveyor. The material is collected in the pit, and then the material is fed to the baler, which produces bales of a uniform size and varying weights. That way, when you load your truck, every bale is the same size and it's easier to plan the load on the truck."

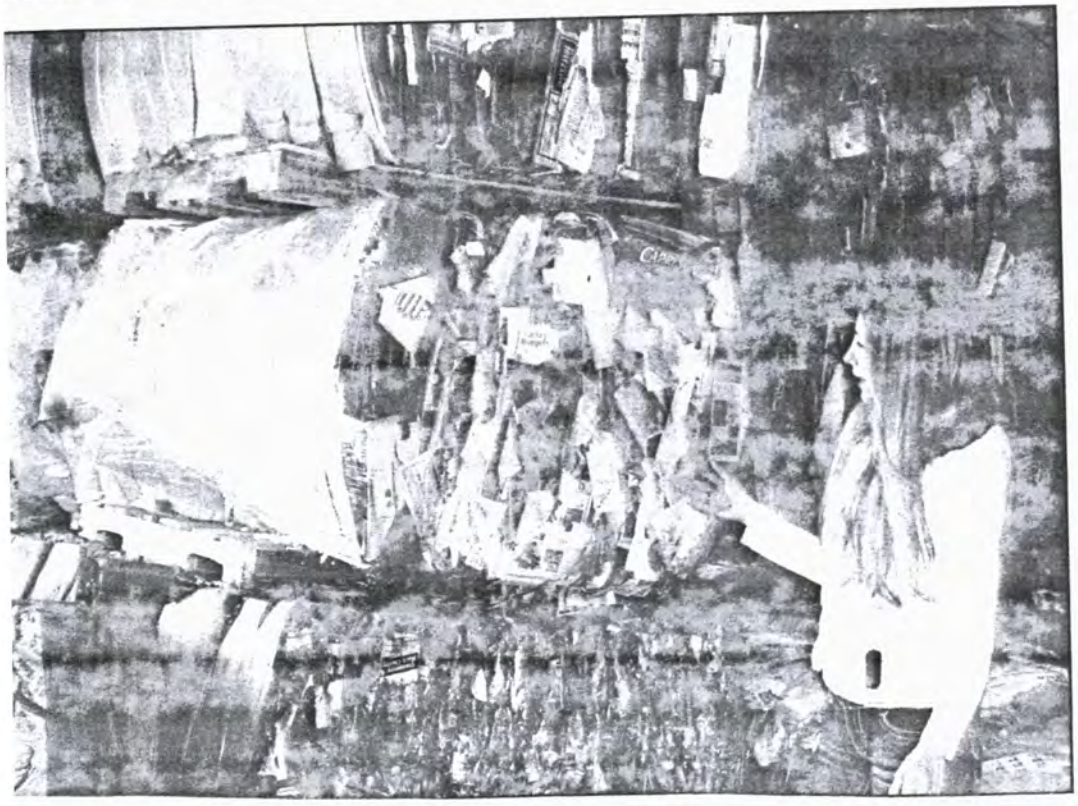
Terra Firma submitted a grant proposal for a Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity (RREO) Grant, a state-funded program that began in 2007 and has awarded more than $7.1 million to businesses, local governments, nonpr groups, schools and universities through Colorado to develop recycling infrastruct according to a state government website. $95,000 grant would provide funding for a h zontal Titan 6-EC International Baler, m factured by Continental Recycling Corpora The baler could process four bales of recy material per day, a much faster rate than current hand-fed method, which Van Matr scribed as being "like cutting two-by-fours w chain saw." The grant would also fund more age space at Terra Firma's facility and pay pickup truck to haul loads of recycled mate to processing centers.

Van Matre said Terra Firma doesn't re glass materials because they're heavy, exper to transport and have a very limited market

Plenty of information about what typ recyclable materials Terra Firma can acce available on its website at *www.terrafirm cling.com*.

Photos by Steve Block / The Chronicle-N

Kelly Van Matre, above, of Terra Firma Recyc speaks about recycling issues in front of the Co Commissioners at Tuesday's meeting. Van M below, gestures toward bales of recycled mat that are ready for shipment.



Continued on Page 2 ...

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Local recycles, finds experience worthwhile

By Jenifer J. Silence
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

When I lived in Denver, I always considered myself a dedicated recycler, pitching my plastic cottage-cheese tubs, Dr. Pepper cans, pizza boxes from my teenagers' dinner, old magazines, milk jugs, toilet paper rolls and packaging into the big, purple receptacle that had been provided by the city of Denver. It lived in the garage in the home I owned, and without really thinking too much about it, I was always filling that receptacle more full than my garbage can. So I was really disappointed when I was told that there was no recycling provided with the garbage-pickup service here in Trinidad.

After I arrived in town, however, I found out that Terra Firma Recycling would be opening at the beginning of January, so I decided to start a recycling program at home to see how easy or difficult it would be to help the environment by recycling my trash. I even got my mom and people at the office involved by having them bring me recyclables from their homes so that I could include them in my trek to Terra Firma.

I began the process by tossing items into plastic grocery bags, then moving them to the garage when the bags were full. After about a week of that, I decided to streamline a bit and got three 13-gallon plastic garbage bins from Walmart, at a total cost of about $15. They took up residence in the garage to hold all of the items that were piling up. Once I got into the habit of culling through what would have normally gone into the garbage, it was pretty simple to take everything out to the garage, break down the larger cardboard items for better storage, then sort the plastics from the cans.

So on a freezing cold, snowy February day, I loaded the back of my SUV with my three containers and numerous bags of recyclable treasures and trekked out to North Nevada Street, just east of the city landfill, to Terra Firma. After some confusion due to a lack of signage, I found myself at the Water Station in a big warehouse full of recyclable items that Terra Firma has collected since it opened.

Photos by Jenifer J. Silence / The Chronicle-N

Trinidadians do their part to help the planet by recycling their used produ at Terra Firma Recycling. From gathering and sorting household recyclable dropping them off at the collection facility, people do not need to spend m extra time to participate in the process.

Kelly Van Matre, who manages the center with her husband, greeted me and trudged through the snow to explain the whole process of sorting the items so that they can go into the appropriate containers. She assisted me as I sorted my contributions into huge bins full of paper, cardboard, plastics and metal cans, all while informing me of all of the items into which these items can be transformed. She also said that residents do not have to sort these recyclables themselves. They can drop items off, then she and her staff will do the sorting. The center currently accepts paper, cardboard, most forms of plastics, cans and aluminum foil.

As we sorted, I noted the impressive mountains of paper, plastic bottles and cans in large cages along the wall. The cages

over the course of approxima four weeks, according to Van tre, who said that about 280 pe had participated in the recyc efforts so far. She said that it t nearly 15 years for plastic to disintegrate in landfills, though the melt-down proces recycling plastics can be toxic said that environmentally it' lesser of two evils.

She also said that the resi of Trinidad who she had sp to during their visits to the ter were mostly positive, sa "'Wow! We really needed th Trinidad. Thank you for this.'" She said the only ne comment had been, "Wher your signs?" She said tha company has applied for a gr get permanent signage soo company did put up metal but, as were other metal the signs were stolen for wh assumes was their moneta change value.

Van Matre said that there are no fees for re to recycle, there are oper costs incurred by the cent the only income from the

COMMUNITY

Kids Earth Barrels project

... Continued from Page 1

Photo by Nick Ruybalid/The Chronicle News

Terry Gordon, Rich Columbo, Jeremy Van Matre, Kelli Van Matre, and Miguel (L-R) stand in front of tons of recyclable material on Tuesday. These individuals are the masterminds behind the Earth Barrels Kids Creation art project.

but they credit Twin Enviro Services and Columbo for this projects momentum. "Terra Firma has opened their doors," said Jeremy Van Matre, "but Twin and Rich is where the credit is due. They've chosen to do this." Twin Enviro seems enthralled for this recycling effort and many more to come. Terry Gordon of Twin Enviro spoke excitedly about Twin Enviro's plan to put recycling on a commercial scale, including making a cardboard route for businesses in the community.

This group of creative thinkers only need two more things to get started with the Earth Barrel project: materials and kids. If area residents have any sort of recyclable and/or art materials, please drop them off between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays or 9 a.m to noon on Saturdays at Terra Firma, 201 W. Indiana Ave. Along with this, if you are an area youth, youth leader, or parent interested in participating, call Kelli at 719-859-3998.

EARTH BARRELS

Kids project to combine education, art, recycling

By Nick Ruybalid
Correspondent
The Chronicle News

A joint project between Terra Firma Recycling, Twin Enviro Services and local artist Rich Columbo will soon bring recycling to events in the Trinidad area—and area youth will be invited to help create them.

"We've had a lot of people in the community ask for on-site recycling at sports games, events, and so forth," said Kelli Van Matre of Terra Firma Recycling. The company's response was to create the Earth Barrel, a place to toss recyclable materials. To make them, the plan is to create "kids' creation stations," where area youth can decorate the barrels with various materials; bringing kids, art, recycling education and filling a community need all together.

Rich Columbo, the artist running the creation stations, says that the first wave of barrel decorating will be done by filling balloons with paint, placing them on the perimeter of each barrel, and throwing darts at them, thus creating multi-colored cylinders. From there, the kids can then stencil recycling-themed drawings onto the receptacles, decorate them further, and add whatever ideas they may bring. "By involving the kids," Columbo said, "it'll raise awareness of recycling, which then goes to the parents, grandparents, extended family. It'll spread, plus, this makes it fun."

There are not any plans to place the Earth Barrels in public places unattended right now, but as the idea progresses, it may become a possibility. According to Jeremy Van Matre of Terra Firma, the barrels will be "anywhere there's an event happening: graduations, weddings, concerts, wherever," until a further date. Along with this, the barrels will only be for mostly drinking containers like bottles and cans for now, but plans could expand for that as well.

Terra Firma has shown a commitment to community projects,

Continued on Page

XI (2)

New recycling projects

by Paula M. Manini

TRINIDAD — Terra Firma Recycling announces new and upcoming projects to expand services and encourage recycling. Located two miles from downtown Trinidad, Terra Firma is a regional facility open to everyone. From Main Street go west on Arizona Avenue, pass the Masonic Cemetery, and follow signs over and up one street to the recycling center, which is open Monday-Friday, 9 am-4 pm, and Saturday, 9 am-noon.

Kelli and Jeremy Van Matre started Terra Firma, a non-profit organization, in January 2014 to fill a demand for year-round recycling. Every day, 25-50 people bring cardboard, other paper products, and plastic and metal items to the recycling center instead of to local landfills. To date, Terra Firma has sold over 320,000 pounds of material on the recyclables market.

Twin Enviro Services is a Colorado waste collection company with several environmental initiatives. Locally they collect recyclables in a big roll out for the U.S. Army at the Piñon Canyon Manuever Site and haul the full container to Terra Firma.

A few months ago, Terry Gordon, the customer service manager, started another program to help Terra Firma. Twin Enviro provides employees and a trailer to pick up cardboard from commercial customers on behalf of Terra Firma. So far twenty businesses have signed up for the "cardboard route" which has scheduling and container options.

Later this summer, Terra Firma will offer a paint recycling program in conjunction with PaintCare. The non-profit organization works in states with paint disposal laws by training workers and setting up locations where people can take unwanted paint.

Terra Firma also is partnering with Rich Columbo, who "integrates recycling into art" in his multi-media creations. He will work with youth to decorate "Earth Barrels" to collect aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and other recyclables at public places and special events.

From left to right: Miquel Barrientos (Terra Firma), Rich Columbo (artist), Gil Lucero (Terra Firma), Terry Gordon (Twin Enviro Services), Cathy Lurie (PaintCare), and Jeremey and Kelli Van Matre (Terra Firma). *Photo by Paula M. Manini.*

You can support Terra Firma by recycling at home, school, and work. For details about what types of paper, plastic and metal items are accepted or to volunteer or to make a tax-deductible donation, call Terra Firma at 719-859-3998 or go to www.terrafirmarecycling.com.

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ENVIRONMENT

Re-use business makes sense for Trinidad

Scott Mastro / The Chronicle-News

Terra Firma Recycling s co-owner and operator, Kelli Van Matre, wrote a grant, got a new baler and looks forward to an even better second year in the re-using, re-purposing and recycling business.

By Scott Mastro
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

Playing a long shot, Terra Firma Recycling opened its doors on January 2, 2014, at 2400 Nevada Avenue, behind the Masonic Cemetery. A year on, their hunch has been correct. Some people want to recycle, and for the past 12 months, have appreciated the opportunity to participate full-time in doing so here in Trinidad.

"We started thinking about it back in late 2011, early 2012," Terra Firma Recycling co-owner and operator, Jeremy Van Matre, said. We didn't have a lot of resources to work with, so we knew we would have to be very exact in moving forward with our planning of location and equipment." The critical variables were whether T-town would support a full-time recycling center, how big the building should be, what other purpose it might be utilized for if recycling wasn't embraced by the community, and the cost of the initial baler. "We got a used vertical baler made for compacting cardboard, from Dallas, online. It was supposed to be in pristine condition. Somebody lied.

"Before we got the bigger, horizontal baler, we were doing 7,000 pounds a month," co-owner and operator, Kelli Van Matre said. "Now we're up to 12,000 pounds a months. In our first eleven months, we've done about 130,000 pounds of recyclables. We hope that number continues to grow." Terra Firma recycles paper, plastics numbered 1 to 7, cardboard, household metals such as steel and aluminum cans and anything from spoons and forks and metal pots and pans to an iron. "We've even seen metal chairs come through here," Kelli added.

"With the old baler, the vertical one designed mainly for cardboard," Kelli said, "our bales were

Continued on Page 5 ...

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Terra Firma: Re-use business makes sense

. Continued from Page 1

1,200 pounds. With the new horizontal baler, our bales are 1,500 pounds."

Having installed the baler in one of the Dochter Lumber buildings, a five-foot pit had to be dug in the former dirt floor to accommodate the loading conveyor belt.

over on January 1 by Grow Generation of Pueblo. They're a hydroponics supply company," Kelli said.

From the bins situated at the edge of the in-ground conveyor belt in the new space, instead of being lifted into the old baler, recyclables can now be dropped onto the conveyor belt and moved along that conveyor belt to the one that raises the recyclables and feeds them into the larger baler.

Working at TF, along with Jeremy and Kelli, are Gilbert Lucero, Miguel Barrientos, and Gary Litch.

"From the start," Kelli pointed out, "people have been coming, so our hunch was right. Before we got going, there were the bi-monthly recycling drives by ReGroup, so we thank them for instilling the idea of recycling here in Trinidad, and everyone that comes. A lot of local businesses and individuals have helped make our first year successful. We can only grow. We're grateful to the Colorado Department of Health and Environment for the grant to purchase the baler. We're going to reach out to schools and institutions, and eventually we'd like to be able to go out and make pick-ups. That's all in the planning."

xiii

Photos by Scott Mastro / The Chronicle-News

Terra Firma co-owner and operator Jeremy Van Matre, above, loads the new horizontal baler. Van Matre, center left, removes a bale of recycled paper from the new horizontal baler, as Gilbert Lucero looks on. Gilbert Lucero, at the bottom, stands among the recyclable bales at Terra Firma Recycling.

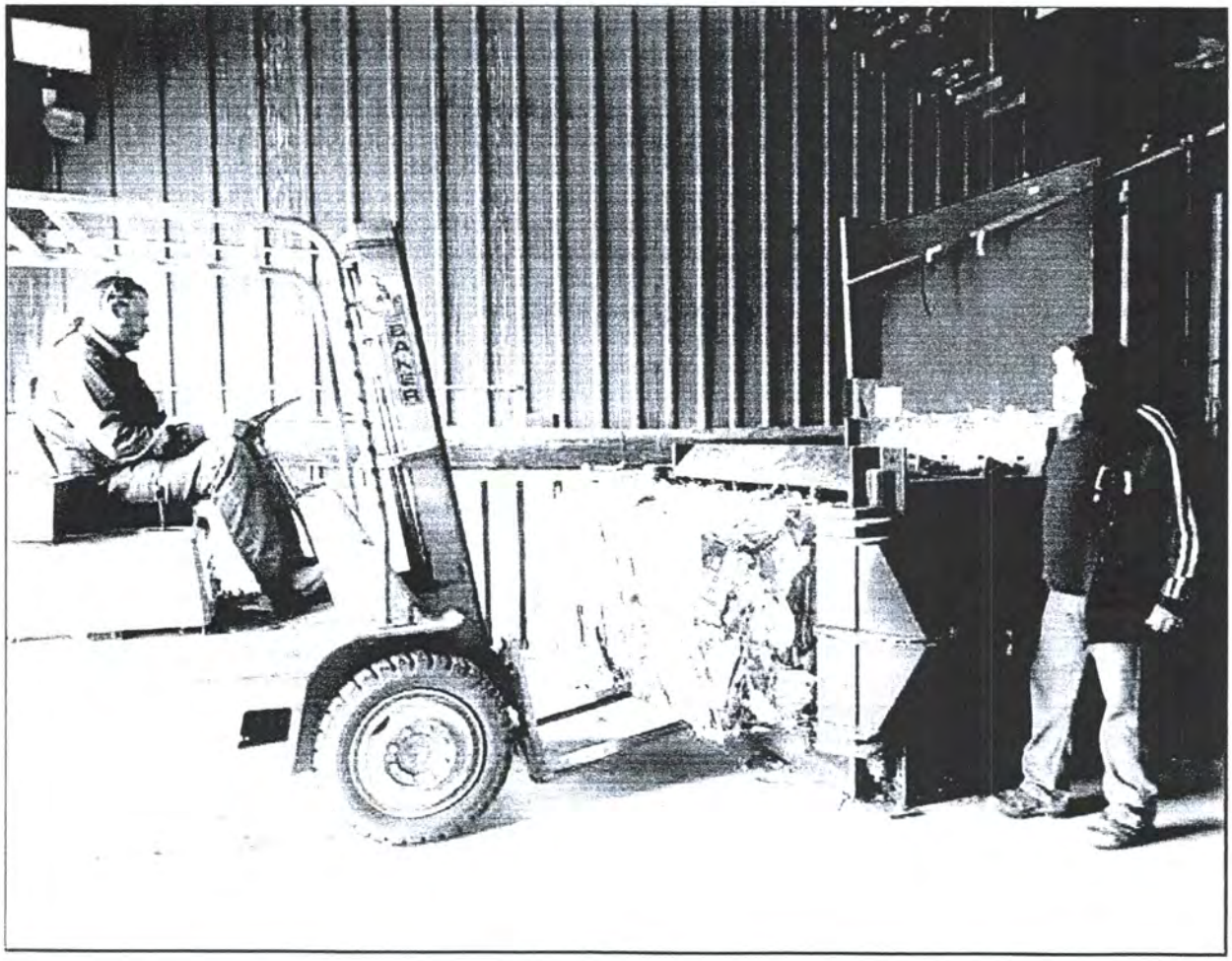
"It had to be dug twice as wide, for the framing, and to put in the metal ringing around the rim to hold the conveyor belt," Jeremy explained. Ken did the excavating. Jim Dunford poured the concrete.

"The old baler isn't cost-effective," Kelli said. This new one is. We got it from Altitude Recycling in Denver. It came on a flat bed in pieces. We unloaded it and put it together."

While the new space is slightly smaller, Terra Firma Recycling & Waste Management's office is at 2400 Nevada Avenue. Their phone number is 719-859-3998. Their email is terrafirmarecycling@yahoo.com. The website is terrafirmarecycling.com.

As Kelli and Jeremy loaded the conveyor belt, Kelli said, "We're doing everything we can to make recycling as convenient as possible, and it doesn't cost a penny to do something that makes sense for Trinidad." She smiled, and kept loading recyclables onto the moving belt.

Terra Firma Recycling and Waste Management's office is at 2400 Nevada Avenue. Their phone number is 719-859-3998. Their email is *terrafirmarecycling@yahoo.com*. The website is *terrafirmarecycling.com*.



xiii3

it has more height, for the new baler, and a bay of garage doors down the side, making access for loads coming, and bales going, easier and more efficient.

"Our former building will be taken

As Kelli and Jeremy loaded the conveyor belt, Kelli said, "We're doing everything we can to make recycling as convenient as possible, and it doesn't cost a penny to do something that makes sense for Trinidad."

FIRST-UP
Bleach