

New Mexico Recycling Coalition – Annual Meeting
June 6, 2024 – Albuquerque, New Mexico
Ventana Salon at the Albuquerque Museum ~ 2000 Mountain Road NW

8:00 – 8:30 Registration and Coffee Networking

8:30 – 9:30 – Extended Producer Responsibility Policy Efforts in Other States

Sarah Pierpont, Executive Director NM Recycling Coalition

Poll Everywhere – Interactive Audience Survey

Audience input to determine starting point for afternoon stakeholder discussion

9:30 – 11:45 Circular Economy in Action: Pathways toward sustainability through circularity

Presentations as outlined below, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Justin Stockdale (formerly with NM Recycling Coalition back in 2010 or so and a big part of setting up our state's hub and spoke recycling system!) is now the **Center for Hard to Recycle Material (CHaRM) and Zero Waste Hauling Director at Eco-Cycle, Inc.** in Boulder, Colorado. Justin will discuss this unique, public drop off facility that accepts electronics, appliances, hard-to-recycle plastics, and over 20 more items for recycling and reuse. Attendees will learn how they find and sustain markets for their material and how policy can help in these efforts. The Center for Hard to Recycle Materials' (CHaRM's) system encourages consumers to be responsible for their waste as opposed to focusing on convenience, and residents seem to agree, with over 55,000 visits from the public each year.

Laurie Johnson is the **founder and CEO of Circular Colorado**, a nonprofit working on waste diversion and end market creation in Colorado and the Director for the new Circular Economy Development Center in Colorado. Prior to this, Laurie was the Chief Operating Officer for a local Colorado roll-off hauling company and served as the Executive Director for Recycle Colorado. Outside of Colorado, Laurie served as VP of Client Services for Recyclebank, and she owned a retail product distribution business in Phoenix for eight years. She serves on multiple boards in Colorado including being a founding board member of the Front Range Waste Diversion Board. Laurie holds a B.A. in Urban Affairs and an MBA in Sustainable Business.

The goal of Laurie's the presentation is to provide an overview of what Colorado's Circular Economy Development Center (CEDC) is, how it came about, and how it goes about designing and executing circular solutions for materials. The presenter will engage participants by walking them through an overview of the process of designing a circular solution that involves the circular model components from inception to execution. A step-by-step process to create a circular solution will be supplied to the participants so they can apply it to their own project, region, or sector.

Megan Kaplon is the **Circular Economy Program Coordinator within the City of Austin's** Resource Recovery Department. Megan champions sustainability by promoting reuse, repair, and other environmentally

conscious behavioral changes. Megan's key responsibilities include overseeing the annual university move-out program, MoveOutATX, spearheading the City's repair initiatives, and engaging with local circular businesses. She is a proud alum of the Texas State University Sustainability Studies master's program.

The City of Austin's has a goal to reach zero waste by 2040. Their Circular Economy program is part of this zero waste goal and consists of numerous programs to promote sustainability and a circular economy in Austin. Megan will present highlights about the City's MoveOutATX, which sets up donation stations and free furniture events during college move out times to promote reuse, Fix-It Austin repair events and sustainable procurement. Attendees will learn the steps it takes to set up community-based reuse and repair events and how the City of Austin uses its procurement efforts to become a model for circularity.

Poll Everywhere – Interactive Audience Input

Wordcloud of any programs and policies that Allison, Laurie and Justin discussed that you'd like to see in New Mexico

11:45 – 12:45 Networking Lunch

Lunch will be facilitated with interactive discussion prompts so that attendees can share and learn from others in attendance.

12:45 – 1:15 Policy Efforts in NM: Santa Fe County Case Study

Jacqueline Beam is the Sustainability Manager at Santa Fe County. Jacqueline will discuss efforts leading up to the County's recent ordinance to ban single use plastic bags, expanded polystyrene takeout containers and other single use plastics in her presentation, "Policy Efforts in New Mexico: Santa Fe County Case Study."

1:15 – 2:00 Recycling and Source Reduction in New Mexico: Next Steps

Shirlene Sitton, NM Environment Department: Solid Waste Bureau's new bureau chief brings over 25 years of experience within the sustainable materials management and recycling fields.

2:00 – 2:30 Break

2:30 – 4:30 Stakeholder Work: What do Boots-on-the-Ground Recyclers Envision for the future of New Mexico?

The afternoon portion of the day will include a facilitated working group to determine potential paths forward for New Mexico to reduce waste, generate funding and improve operational efficiencies within the recycling and solid waste arena. These could include product stewardship, identification of the most egregious municipal solid waste items, brainstorming solutions and outlining a path forward. The poll from the morning session will serve as a starting point from which breakout groups will collaborate. At the end of the day, the group can expect an outline of potential policies to work towards that reduce waste and improve operational efficiencies.