



**Recycling & Sustainable Materials
Management in New Mexico**

HB291 Recycling & State's Circular Economy

Signed into LAW in 2025!

Bill Summary: This bill updates the RAID act to include "circular economy" and change the title to the, "Recycling, Circular Economy and Illegal Dumping Act," and would create the following changes to the Act. General promotion of the concept of a circular economy

- Creates two positions at NMED Solid Waste Bureau for a "recycling and waste reduction coordinator" and a "circular economy coordinator" funded from the recycling and illegal dumping fund
- Removes the one-third/two-third requirements for annual budgeted RAID grant funds that require two-thirds of grants to go to tire related projects.
- Requires the environmental improvement board to adopt requirements and procedures for submitting rules to the board for adoption

HB212 PER- & POLY-FLOUROALKYL PROTECTION ACT

Signed into LAW in 2025! New Mexico Becomes Third U.S. State to Prohibit PFAS in Products

Bill Summary: Beginning **January 1, 2027**, a manufacturer may not sell, offer for sale, distribute, or distribute for sale the following products containing intentionally added PFAS:

- Cookware;
- Food packaging;
- Dental floss;
- Juvenile products; and
- Firefighting foam

The law will

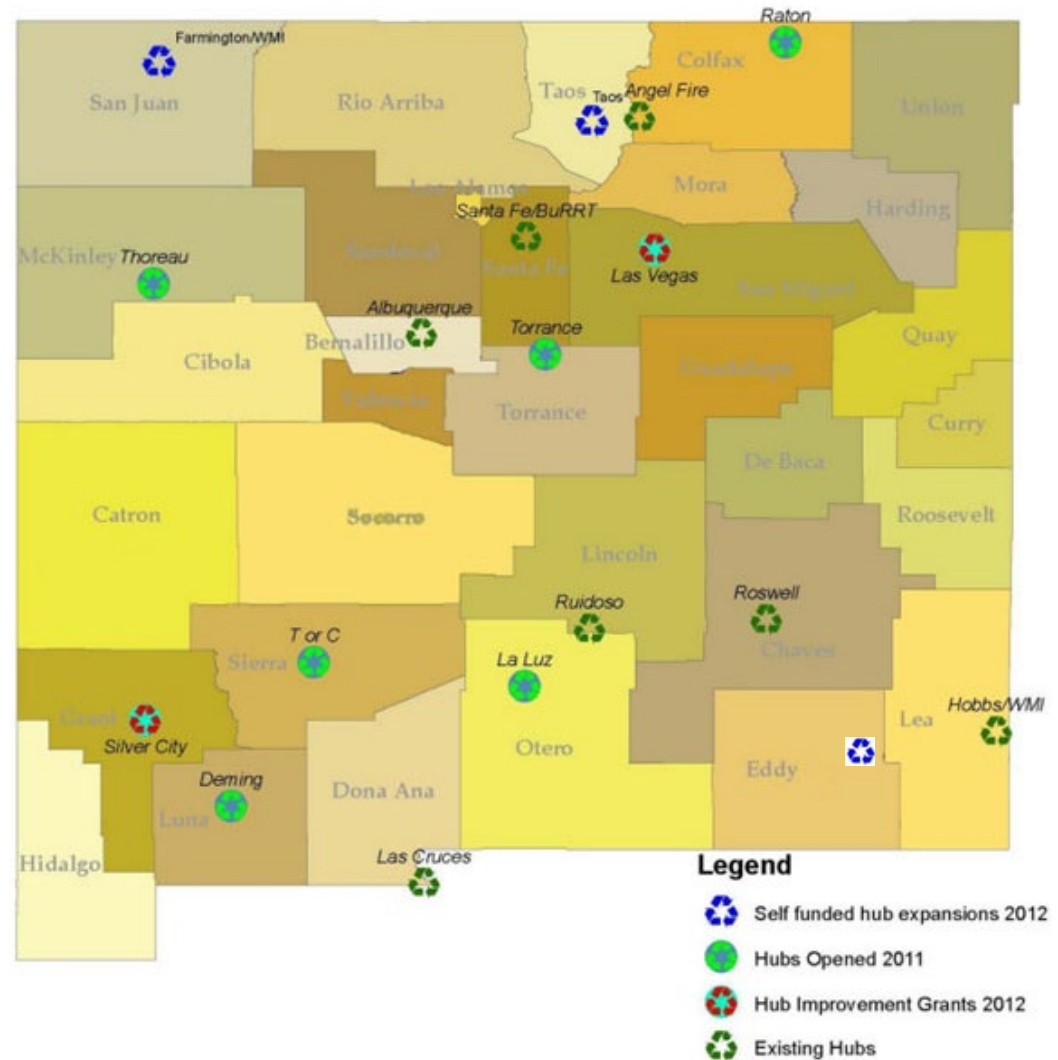
- restricts intentionally added PFAS in certain categories of consumer products in 2027 and 2028;
- restricts intentionally added PFAS in all products starting in 2032; (
- requires manufacturers of any products containing intentionally added PFAS to submit certain information to the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) by 2027; and
- gives NMED the authority to require product testing for intentionally added PFAS



Recycling in NM

Statewide Recycling in NM - 2013

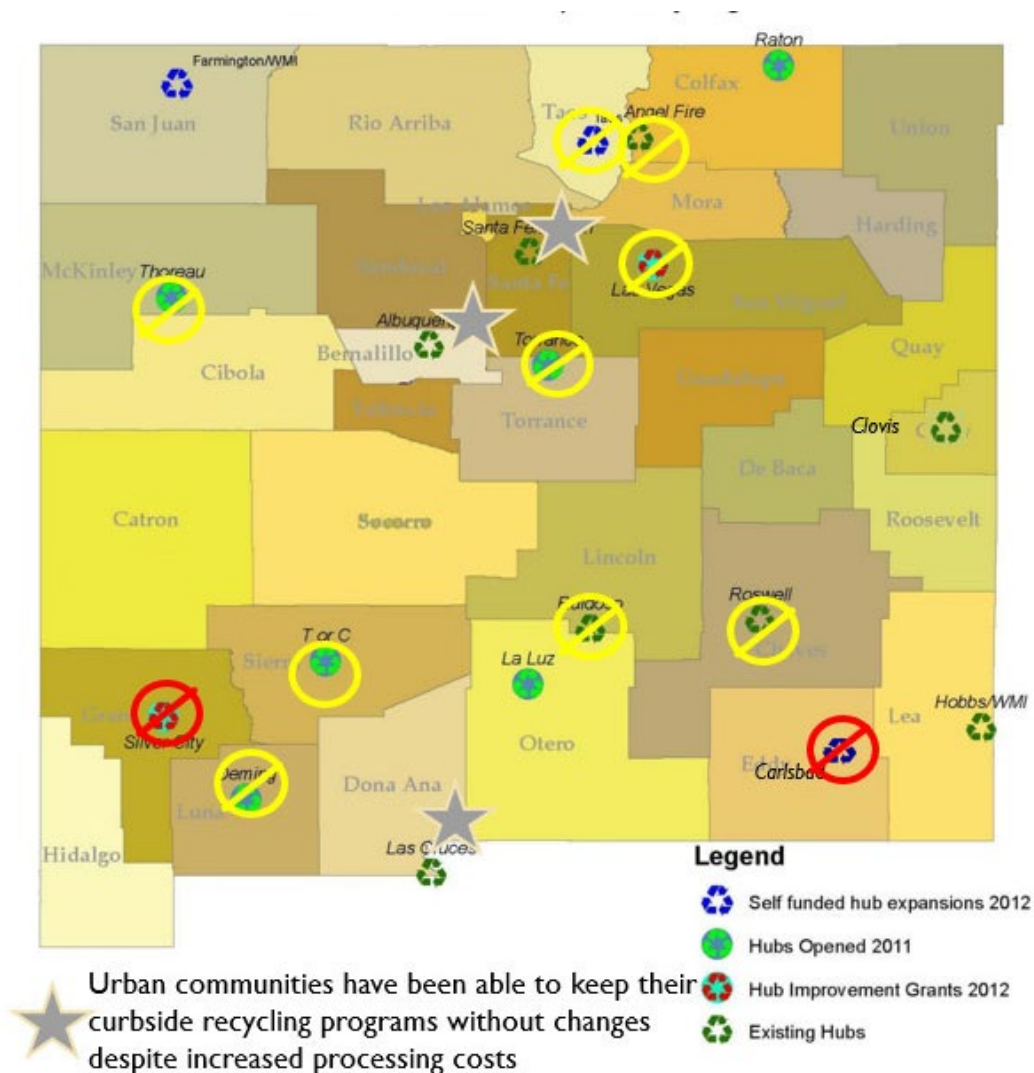
- 16% recycling rate (2015 – no data after that)
- One large material recovery facility in Albuquerque
- Very rural state (5th largest, ~2.2 million population)
- One end-market – McKinley Paper cardboard mill in Prewitt, NM
- Large influx of capital (\$2 million) for rural communities in 2010-2013 through DOE grant – hub and spoke rural recycling network



Recyclenewmexico.com

Statewide Recycling in NM - 2025

- Silver City, Deming & Carlsbad have shut their recycling hubs. Carlsbad conducted feasibility study in 2025 to launch new recycling program.
- Most others rural hubs have stopped accepting plastics and mixed paper
- Town of Taos closed its robust drop off recycling center, currently Taos County recycles cardboard and some plastics with one vertical baler for the entire county
- In rural areas – Otero County and Raton still offer residents comprehensive drop off recycling



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Historical barriers to recycling in NM

- Limited population=limited materials
- Low volumes difficult to market
- Knowledge gap
- Cost to start/run program
- Lack of political support
- Lack of Infrastructure
- Historical dependence on disposal

Current barriers to recycling in NM

- Evolving ton of discards = more “unrecoverable material”
- Lack of local markets
- National Sword in 2018 and related ripple effect
- Low value material
- Contamination
- State’s “anti-donation” laws discourage partnerships with private entities
- Lack of state-funded market development programs

Current barriers to recycling in NM....

Many items are simply “non-recoverable” they do not have a value or market and are therefore not recyclable (*despite people really really really wanting them to be recycled and putting them in their blue bin*)

We cannot recycle
our way out of
NM's litter problem



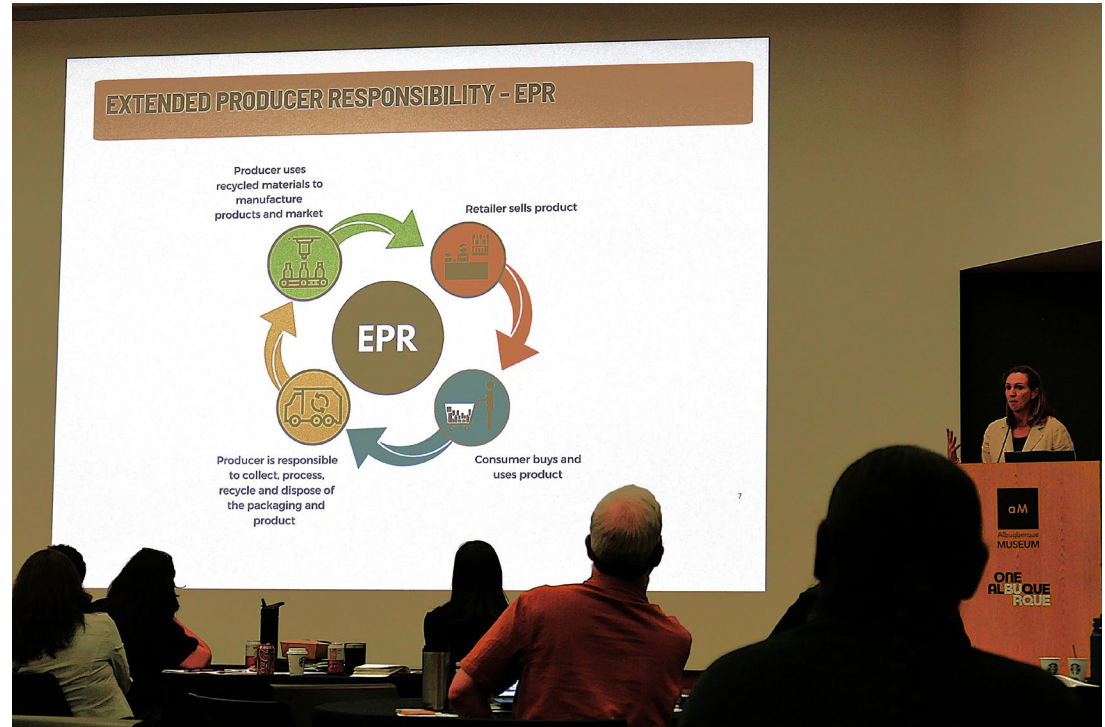
One End-Market in NM McKinley Paper in Prewitt, NM



NM Recyclers Annual Meeting – May 28, 2026

NM Recyclers Annual Meeting Summary

- Hosted by the New Mexico Recycling Coalition
- 82 attendees representing over 30 towns and counties!
- 6 Native American Communities represented
- 12 Sponsors
- 14 Speakers



NM Recyclers Annual Meeting Stakeholder Input – May 28, 2026

What strategies from the State's updated SW Management Plan stood out as priorities to you?



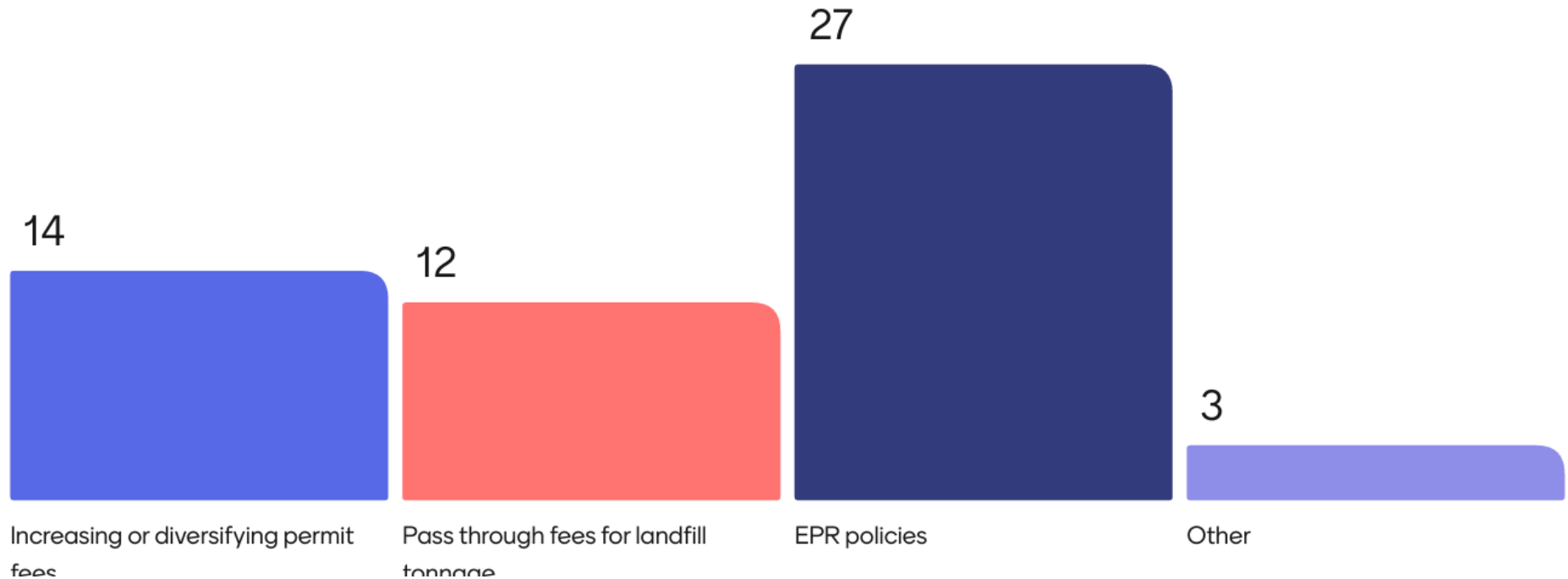
NM Recyclers Annual Meeting Stakeholder Input – May 28, 2026

What steps should our state take to reach its diversion goals?



NM Recyclers Annual Meeting Stakeholder Input – May 28, 2026

What funding mechanism would you support most strongly that could provide increased resources to NMED to provide to the public and private industry?



Recycling Professionals Stakeholder Meeting – June 6, 2024

70 attendees representing 45 NM Communities

Items in the waste stream that are the biggest nuisance for NM Recyclers/SW Professionals

- Mercury containing devices – Sales ban
- Lithium-Ion batteries – Landfill Ban
- Styrofoam food containers – Sales ban
- Mattresses – EPR program
- Tires - EPR program and/or landfill ban
- Plastic packaging – EPR Program + sales ban



Know Your Litter - USA

- Keep America Beautiful 2020 National Litter Study tracked 86 products along roadsides and waterways = 818 million fast-food packaging products, 2.6 billion food packaging film item, 308 single use plastic bags



What can NM Policymakers do to help?



- Pass a single-use plastic prevention law that supports NM's recycling systems and reduces litter by banning the most egregious single-use plastic items (bags, Styrofoam food containers, etc).
- Support EPR at the state-level
- Ban sales of toxic, easily replaced items, e.g. new mercury containing lightbulbs
- Provide economic incentives for recycling market development