



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

- We passed the 100 mark for installed backyard worm compost systems.
- With our support Santa Fe County adopted an ordinance that makes curbside recycling a requirement for many residences.
- We received the “Nonprofit Recycler of the Year Award” at the New Mexico Recycling & Solid Waste Conference in Albuquerque.

ADMINISTRATION

- In 2016 Sue Daniel and Sue Garfitt served as Co-Chairs, Sheila Sullivan as Treasurer, and Libby Maclaren as Secretary. They will continue in these roles for 2017.
- Our monthly meetings will continue in the conference room of the ECIA building. All interested persons are welcome to attend. We meet on the second Tuesday of every month, 4-6 PM.
- Our website eldorado285recycles.org continued to attract visits, growing from 31,000 in 2015 to 63,600 in 2016. We expect the latter level to continue in 2017.

MISSION

- Our group’s mission is to encourage all residents of Eldorado and the Hwy. 285 Corridor to reduce the amount of material they send to the landfill by practicing the “5 R’s” (1) Refusing to buy unneeded items, (2) Reducing unneeded packaging of what they buy, (3) Repairing whatever they can to extend its life, (4) Reusing other people’s unwanted “stuff” in place of buying new, and (5) Recycling or composting remaining materials whenever possible.
- We recognize the importance of reaching out beyond the Eldorado/285 area to the Santa Fe City and County agencies that influence recycling policies and behaviors, while at the same time emphasizing activities within our own community.

PROGRAMS

- **ADVOCACY:** Throughout 2016 we were the leading advocates for recycling in the Santa Fe area. Our members participated in the meetings of ECIA Board; the Board of County Commissioners; the City Council, its Public Utilities Committee and its Sustainability Commission; and the Santa Fe Solid Waste Management Agency (SWMA), which oversees the landfill and the Buckman Road Recycling and Transfer Station.
- **COMPOSTING:** Our “compost pile in every backyard” program in 2016 installed 23 “straw bale worm-composting systems” in Eldorado and along the Hwy. 285 corridor. We buy straw bales, deliver them to the recipient, setup the system, seed it with worms, and train the new composters on feeding the worms with kitchen scraps. We estimate that our year-end total of 113 installed systems will divert 25 tons of food waste from the landfill in 2017 and every year thereafter. A survey of existing systems and an instructional video were completed in 2016

- **RECYCLING:** In 2015 we continued to collect selected conventional recyclables and “hard-to-recycle” items at the La Tienda mall. The items included: cast-off athletic shoes, #5 plastics, used plastic writing instruments, bottle corks, rubber bands, dental care items, personal care and beauty items, string lights, and cold weather clothing (hats, scarves, gloves). We also collected recyclables at our local senior center and from several Santa Fe dental offices.
- **ZERO WASTE:** Our Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast was Eldorado’s first fully zero waste event, and in August we collaborated with our local library to make its Ice Cream Social the second food-related zero-waste community event.
- **EDUCATION & OUTREACH:** We placed recycling information at the Vista Grande Library, the Senior Center, the Eldorado Convenience Center, La Tienda, in the ECIA packages welcoming new residents, and on our website. We have published information on recycling and on our work in the Vistas, La Tienda Weekly, and NextDoor Eldorado. Our members responded on NextDoor to numerous questions about curbside recycling arising from the new County ordinance. We did tabling and/or recycling at events sponsored by the ECIA, the Vista Grande Public Library, Eldorado Fire & Rescue, Santa Fe Community College, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, and the Santa Fe Master Gardeners. We participated with children’s games and projects in Santa Fe’s first Reuseapalooza Day and its 18th annual Recycled Art Festival.
- **COMMUNITY:** Spring and fall we removed trash and recyclables from the heavily used section of Avenida Vista Grande, our “main street”, from Hwy.285 to Avenida Torreon. Our athletic shoe and winter clothing collections benefitted local charities. We persuaded the ECIA to place recycling bins in its building and at its Dog Park.
- **FUNDRAISING:** Because we are a not-for-profit volunteer organization, we rely on the unpaid work of our volunteers, on money earned at a flea market with sale items donated by our members, and from our sponsorship and operation of Eldorado’s Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast, in collaboration with La Tienda’s La Plancha Cafe.

PLANS FOR 2017

- **COMPOSTING:** Continued emphasis will be placed on backyard composting, the most effective, best energy-saving way of diverting fully 30% of our household trash from the landfill.
- **ZERO WASTE:** We will make our 2017 Pancake Breakfast once again a true zero waste event and show other event sponsors how to make their events zero waste.
- **SUPPORT & EDUCATION:** We will work to make the coming changes in the City recycling program successful and to help in implementing the recycling required by existing ordinance at all County convenience centers.