

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS

- We passed the 130 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.

ADMINISTRATION

- In 2017 Sue Daniel and Sue Garfitt served as Co-Chairs, Sheila Sullivan as Treasurer, and Libby Maclaren as Secretary. Our officers for 2018 are Sue Daniel and Sue Garfitt co-chairs, Sheila Sullivan, Treasurer and Joe Durlak, Secretary. Our monthly meetings will continue to be held 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 with a 2017 total of almost 24,000.

MISSION

- Our 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, (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 2017 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 2017 installed 20 “straw bale worm-composting systems” in Eldorado and along the Hwy. 285 corridor. We purchase 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 130 installed systems will divert more than 25 tons of food waste from the landfill in 2018 and every year thereafter. 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.
- **RECYCLING:** In 2017 we continued to collect “hard-to-recycle” items at the La Tienda mall. The items included: 214 pairs of athletic shoes, #5 plastics, 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. Last year we also collaborated with El Dorado Fire and Rescue to make their annual BBQ zero-waste. That event is especially significant since they serve 800-1000 meals. Our goal is to continue the three 2017 zero-waste events and to collaborate with public and private parties for additional opportunities.

- **EDUCATION & OUTREACH:** We placed recycling information at the Vista Grande Library, the Senior Center, the Eldorado Convenience Center, La Tienda, and on the ECIA website for residents. We have published information on recycling and on our work in Vistas, La Tienda Weekly newsletter, and NextDoor Eldorado. Our members responded on NextDoor to numerous questions about curbside recycling arising from the new County ordinance.

- **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

- **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.