



**Recycling & Sustainable Materials  
Management in 2025**



# Policy

# HB291 Recycling & State's Circular Economy

Signed into LAW!

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! 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

# Tariffs and Recycling?

- Recyclers expect short-term gains from increased domestic demand
- Long-term - ? If tariffs ultimately slow manufacturing, the market for recycled materials—and their prices—could drop.
- Most recycling facilities use the value of commodities to offset the price of processing (sorting and baling) mixed recyclables.
- This could cause increases in fees at the municipal level
- Effects of tariffs will vary by commodity



*Recycling, like any business, depends on balanced economics to remain viable.*

# Tariffs and Recycling?

Aluminum & Steel ~ 6% of curbside collection in US

## Factors Influencing Aluminum Prices

Several factors can influence the price of aluminum and, consequently, its value as a recycled material:

- **Currency fluctuations:** The dollar's value in international markets affects the cost of trading materials with other countries, which can raise or lower the price of aluminum.
- **Tariffs:** Reduced imports of virgin aluminum due to tariffs can increase the price of domestically produced recycled aluminum.
- **Economic recessions:** Lower consumer demand for aluminum-based products (such as cars or beverages) can reduce the price.
- **Changing trends:** Shifts in consumer behavior or packaging choices can impact demand. For example:
  - A pandemic might lead to increased at-home consumption, spiking the demand and price of aluminum cans.
  - Conversely, if aluminum prices rise due to tariffs, people may stop purchasing aluminum products or companies may switch to cheaper alternatives, decreasing demand for recycled aluminum.

# Tariffs and Recycling?

US economy slows sharply shrinking 0.3% in the first quarter, as tariffs weigh



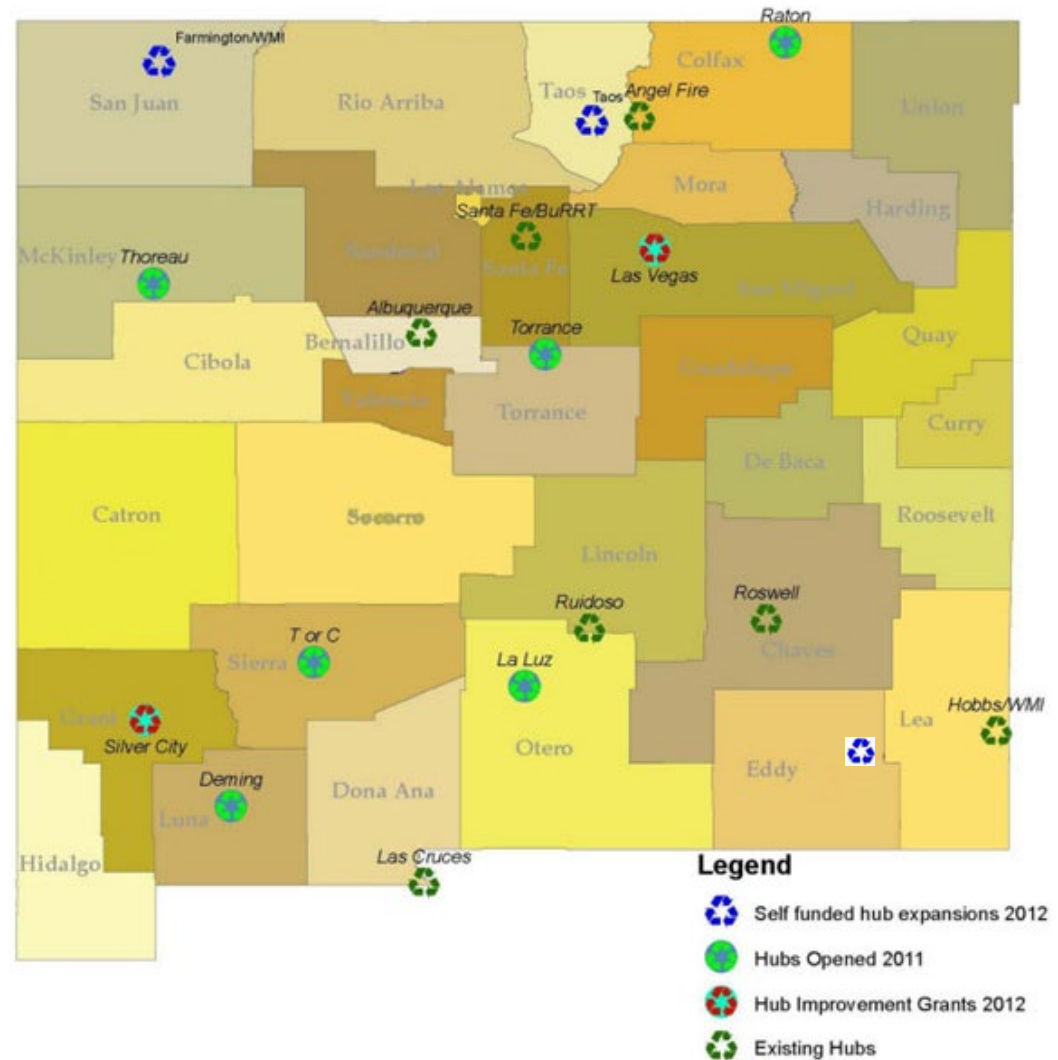
- What about other commodities?
- Ripple Effects



# 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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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

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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

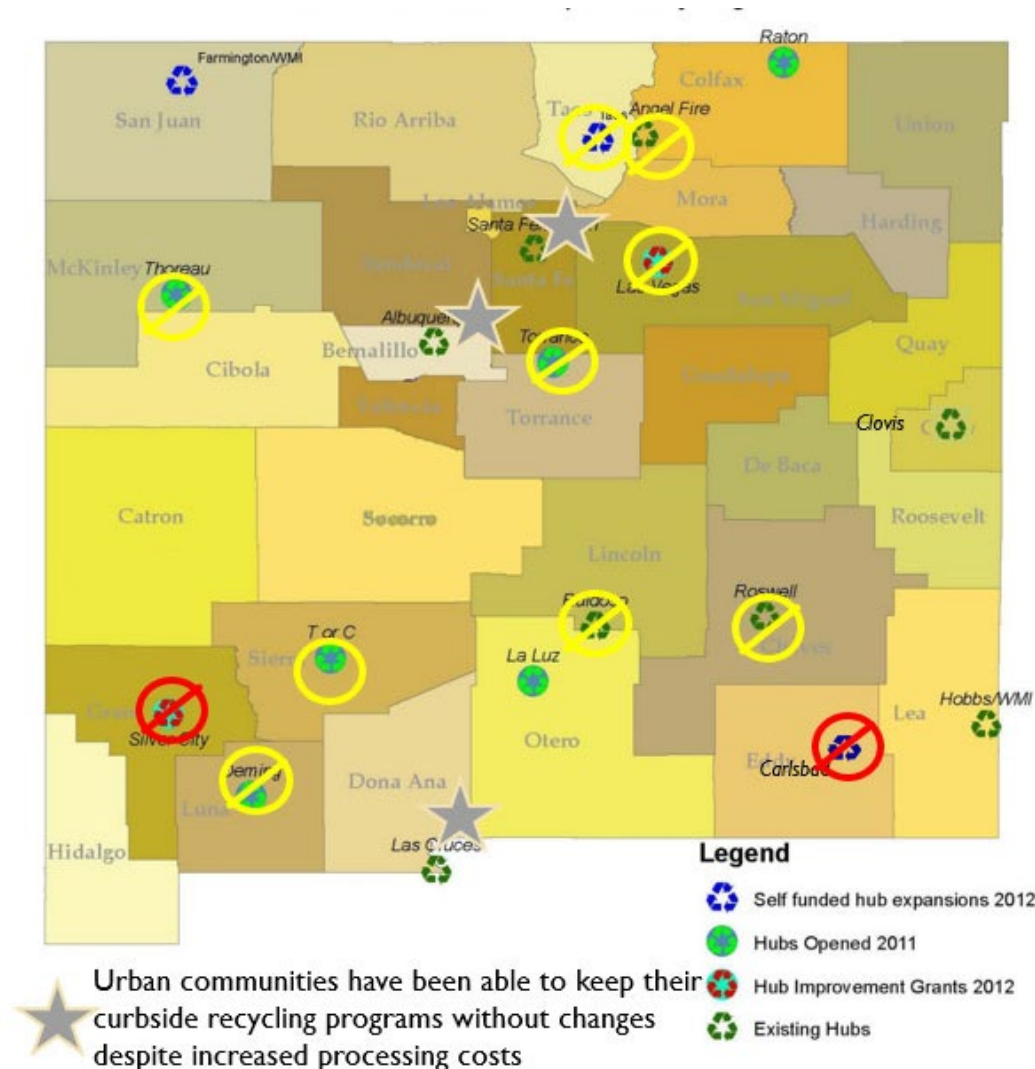
## Current barriers to recycling in NM

- 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
- Lack of state-funded market development programs

## Statewide Recycling in NM - 2025

- Silver City, Deming & Carlsbad have shut their recycling hub
- Most others have stopped accepting plastics and mixed paper
- Town of Taos closed its robust drop off recycling center, currently Taos County recycles cardboard 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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## 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



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



# Policy Tools to Drive a Circular Economy – SALES BANS

- Ban sale of mercury containing lightbulbs. California passed Assembly Bill 2208 in 2022 that sets phase out dates for compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and linear fluorescent lamps (LFLs) starting in 2024.
- In 2021 Maine banned intentionally added “forever chemicals” PFAS from some consumer products.

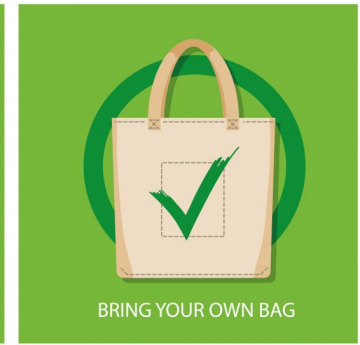
**Sales Prohibitions on Products Containing Intentionally Added PFAS**

Effective Date	Product Category
January 1, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carpet or rug</li> <li>• Fabric treatment</li> </ul>
January 1, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning product</li> <li>• Cookware product</li> <li>• Cosmetic product</li> <li>• Dental floss</li> <li>• Juvenile product</li> <li>• Menstruation product</li> <li>• Textile articles (with exception)</li> <li>• Ski wax</li> <li>• Upholstered furniture</li> <li>• Products listed that do not contain intentionally added PFAS but are sold, offered for sale, or distributed for sale in a fluorinated container or in a container that otherwise contains intentionally added PFAS.</li> </ul>
January 1, 2029	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artificial turf</li> <li>• Outdoor apparel for severe wet conditions unless accompanied with a disclosure: "Made with PFAS chemicals."</li> </ul>
January 1, 2032	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any products containing intentionally added PFAS sold in Maine unless the use of PFAS in the product is a currently unavoidable use.</li> <li>• Products that do not contain intentionally added PFAS but that are sold, offered for sale, or distributed for sale in a fluorinated container or in a container that otherwise contains intentionally added PFAS.</li> </ul>
January 1, 2040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cooling, heating, ventilation, air conditioning or refrigeration equipment.</li> <li>• Refrigerants, foams or aerosol propellants.</li> </ul>

# Policy Tools to Drive a Circular Economy – SALES BANS

## Sales Bans – Banning Nuisance Materials

- Over 500 municipalities in 28 states had plastic bag legislation in effect as of 2021. Additionally, 12 states have single-use plastic bag bans: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, & Washington



- A [recent report](#) found that plastic bag bans WORK to reduce the number of single use plastic bags used. Three states and two cities with bans = reduction of 6 billion single-use plastic bags used each year.

# Policy Tools to Drive a Circular Economy – LANDFILL BANS

**Landfill ban** – Banning items from the landfill (e.g. lead acid batteries or cardboard!)

- If an item is banned from landfills, are you required to recycle it? Technically no, as 49 states have landfill bans but only 22 states have mandatory recycling laws.
- Vermont's 2012 Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) has phased in approaches including the ban of food scraps and other organics from the trash effective July 1, 2020.
- Michigan – bans aluminum, glass, & plastic containers covered by their container deposit law, yard waste and tires from their landfills

## Common Landfill Bans Items

1. Car batteries
2. Motor oil
3. Tires
4. Liquid waste (e.g., non-dried paint, household cleaners)
5. Untreated medical waste
6. Cathode ray tube (CRT) screens (tube monitors and TVs)
7. Products containing mercury
8. Yard waste
9. Computers
10. Nickel-cadmium batteries

# Policy Tools to Drive a Circular Economy – TRUTH IN LABELING



Purchased at Walmart, 8/2021



# **We can't do it all at once. Where should we start in NM?**

**How do we decide where to start? Which item(s) in the waste stream are the biggest nuisance and part of a linear economy?**

**Things to consider (from National Stewardship Action Council):**

- **How toxic is it?**
- **Are there safer alternatives on the market now or coming soon?**
- **What have other states or countries done with the product/chemical?**
- **Is the international community limiting shipping/disposal?**

# 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



# Single Use Plastic & NM's Recycling Systems

- Most communities in the state do not provide plastic recycling
- Single plastic bags and Styrofoam containers are some of the top contaminants nationwide and in NM's recycling programs.
- These items get caught in equipment and pose hazards to employees
- In New Mexico plastic bag “tangles” cost the City of Albuquerque's recycling program an estimated \$4 million per year in expenses.

# What are the other impacts of these hard to manage items?

## LITTER

- Know Your Litter Globally – Break Free From Plastic Global brand audit 2023, 250 brand audits in 41 countries, 573,719 pieces of plastic packaging waste



## 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

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# Trainings & Conference



## 2025

### ❖ Recycling Course

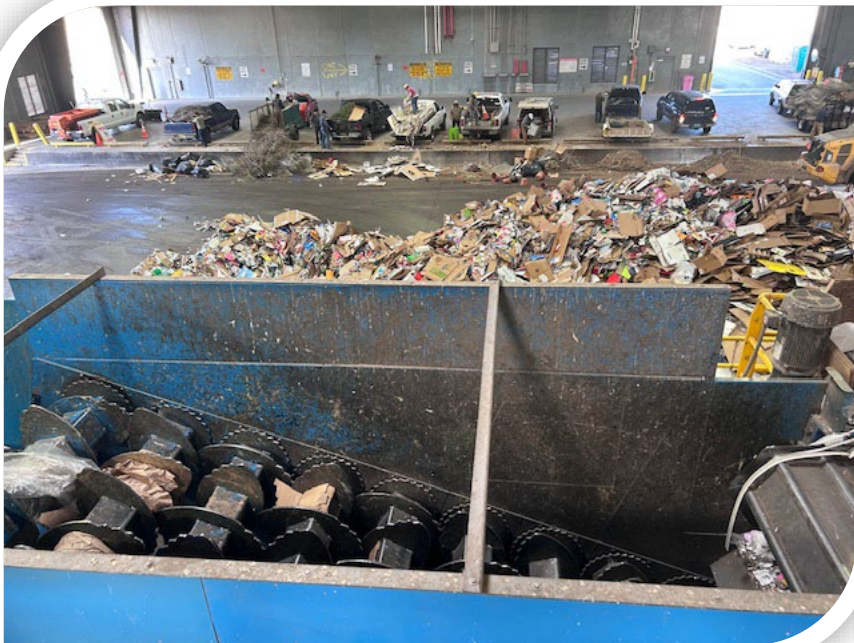
- March 4-6 in Santa Fe 35 Attendees
- December 2-4 in Albuquerque

### ❖ Compost Course

- May 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> in Albuquerque
- October 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> in Santa Fe



**CERT CLASSES!**



Working with NMED and  
Presenters to Update Course  
Material

# 2025 NM Recycling & Solid Waste Conference

## Circularity in Action



- Conference Tuesday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup> through Wed, October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Optional Recycling Tour – October 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Up to 24 CEUs available

# 2025 NM Recycling & Solid Waste Conference

## Circularity in Action

### Bottle bills are 'gold standard' for raising UBC recycling rates: CRI

A Container Recycling Institute report calls for widespread work on passing new bottle bills in an effort to keep pace with U.S. aluminum consumption amid declining recycling rates.



#### **Keynote Speaker – Susan Collins**

Susan Collins is President of the Container Recycling Institute and has worked on recycling and sustainability issues for more than 30 years. She leads CRI's research and works with environmental organizations, activists and governments around the world to educate on the benefits of packaging recycling. Ms. Collins has testified before the legislatures of 13 U.S. states and territories and has been quoted in dozens of US and local newspapers. She is a former board member and Treasurer of the National Recycling Coalition and the California Resource Recovery Association.