

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT TO DEVELOP A
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR TRANSFORMING THE ECONOMICS OF RECYCLING IN
NEW MEXICO.

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WHEREAS, solid waste disposal sites and illegal dumping might potentially
harm ground water resources in New Mexico; and

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WHEREAS, maintaining and developing new landfills is costly and stressful
for local communities; and

WHEREAS, forest thinning projects, the current bark beetle epidemic and
the removal of non-native trees along watercourses have created an immediate
need to develop markets to encourage the production of value-added products from
tree waste; and

WHEREAS, few recycling and waste diversion options are available to
communities in New Mexico, as evidenced by the state's recycling rate of under ten
percent and waste diversion rate of twenty-five percent; and

WHEREAS, the construction and demolition industry is responsible for thirty
percent of the landfill waste in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, recycling and waste diversion options are limited by the lack of
local markets and manufacturing enterprises that use waste commodities as
feedstock; and

WHEREAS, integrated waste management planning that emphasizes
recycling and waste diversion will develop recycling markets and recycled feedstock
manufacturing enterprises and promote job growth; and

WHEREAS, new markets and business opportunities will provide waste diversion options to communities across the state and ultimately support the local tax base; and

WHEREAS, increased recycling and waste diversion will reduce pollution and promote more efficient use of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico recycling coalition developed a preliminary report entitled "Transforming the Economics of Recycling in New Mexico" that identifies resources and methods to promote recycling, waste diversion and market development;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of environment cooperate with the economic development department and the New Mexico recycling coalition to develop a written strategic plan for transforming the economics of recycling in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan for transforming the economics of recycling in New Mexico include a review of resources and methods to promote recycling, waste diversion and market development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the strategic plan include a recommendation of an appropriate agency to implement and administer the methods identified in the plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of environment be requested to present the written strategic plan to the appropriate interim legislative committee by December 1, 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the strategic plan be distributed

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to members of the appropriate interim legislative committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two copies of the strategic plan be filed with the legislative council service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the department of environment, the economic development department and the New Mexico recycling coalition.

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