

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic look. The shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the slide, framing the central text.

# Environmental Sustainability Board Update to County Council

Lisa Bakosi, Chair, May 14, 2019

# The Environmental Sustainability Board...

- ▶ Provides **public input** to the County's Environmental Sustainability efforts such as waste diversion, recycling, and sustainable development.
- ▶ Serves as an **advisory board** to County Council for matters involving environmental sustainability.
- ▶ Authorization: The County Council adopted Ordinance 02-094 in June 2008 establishing the Environmental Sustainability Board.
- ▶ ESB has 2 teams and 1 subcommittee
  - ▶ SAYT Research Subcommittee (5 members)
  - ▶ Zero Waste Team (12 members)
  - ▶ LA Public Schools Team (5 members)

# FY19 ESB Accomplishments





# Award Worthy Initiatives

- ▶ LAC received Diversion Project of the Year as part of the New Mexico Recycling Coalition's (NMRC) annual Recycling Awards
  - ▶ NMRC wanted to recognize the community for its initiative to divert yard waste from the landfill and was impressed with the data gathering and planning that preceded the 2018 roll-out.
- ▶ Currently 54% of households have a yard trimming roll cart - adding more daily. Goal is 75% participation.
- ▶ Diverted over 553.21 tons of material so far since July 2018. (120 tons since March 2019.)





# Landfill is in Compliance - Methane Extraction Project Success

- Required to provide 30 years post closure care for closed Los Alamos Landfill.
- Drilled 17 new extraction wells (6 inch HDPE pipe), depths range from 41 feet (C&D area) and 75 feet (MSW area).
- Before the system - The methane levels around the landfill ranged from 0 - 20% methane gas in air or 400% of the LEL.
- Now all of the methane levels ~ 0% methane gas in air.
- System cost \$1.2 million dollars and we have a contract to provide operation, maintenance and monitoring each month.



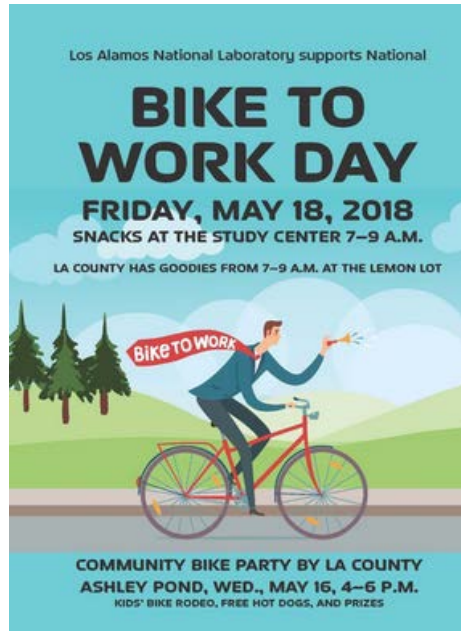
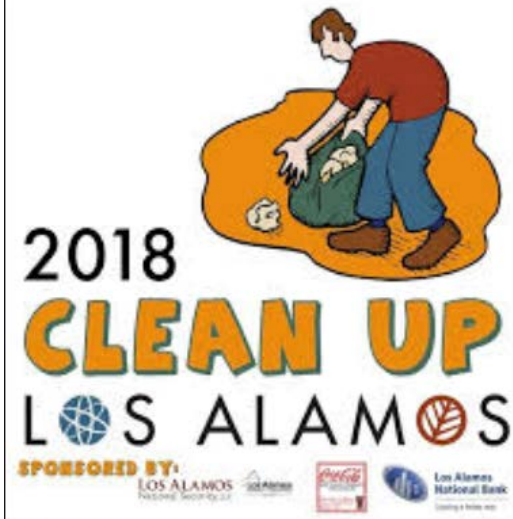
# Presentations to ESB

- ▶ At Home Composting Basics - KokHeong McNaughton
- ▶ Food Waste Presentation - Sue Barns
- ▶ Illegal Dumping - Boots on the Ground - Joshua Levings
- ▶ Overview of EPA, Pay as You Throw Webinar - Sue Barns
- ▶ Repurposing Discarded Items - Mark Devolder
- ▶ Recycle Coach- Tiffany Pegoda
- ▶ Waste Zero Overview - Sue Barns
- ▶ Field Trip to ReUnity Composting Facility in Santa Fe
- ▶ The Climate Crisis and Its Solutions - Julia Ying
- ▶ SMM Food Waste Source Reduction Webinar Overview by Sara Thurgood





# FY19 EVENTS/OUTREACH



## 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RECYCLER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Los Alamos County Environmental Services is seeking nominations for its annual Recycler of the Year awards, which spotlights local businesses, schools, government agencies, and community organizations that make outstanding contributions to promote recycling and reduce waste.

Download nomination form at [www.losalamosnm.us/gogreen](http://www.losalamosnm.us/gogreen)  
Nominations are due by May 10, 2018

The Environmental Sustainability Board will review nominations and determine award categories, which vary but often include: business recycler, nonprofit and educational institutions. The public will be invited to vote via online survey and winner will be announced June 9<sup>th</sup> at Chamber Fest.

### 2017 RECYCLER OF THE YEAR WINNERS

Pajarito Environmental  
Educational Center  
2017 Business/Non-Profit  
Recycler of the Year



Chamisa Elementary  
School  
2017 Educational  
Institute  
Recycler of the Year

LOS ALAMOS  
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(505) 662-8163  
[solidwaste@lacnm.us](mailto:solidwaste@lacnm.us)



Earth Day at PEEC



Booths at Farmer's Markets

LOS ALAMOS  
SCIENCE  
FEST  
2018  
THE SECRET CITY UNLOCKED



Bear Festival - 1<sup>st</sup> Zero  
Waste Event at PEEC

# Zero Waste Team Accomplishments





- Zero Waste Team created and implemented posters, a webpage, Facebook group (130 members), numerous Zero Waste articles in LADP, a presentation at Ignite LA, KRSN, and Voices of LA all in an effort to educate about Zero Waste and what that means in Los Alamos.

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# Los Alamos Public Schools Team Accomplishments

# Chamisa Elementary - Greening our Schools



2018 EcoChallenge Winner



Zero Waste Lunch program won -  
NM SWANA Roadrunner Award for Most Innovative Project



# Our schools got a sustainable upgrade!



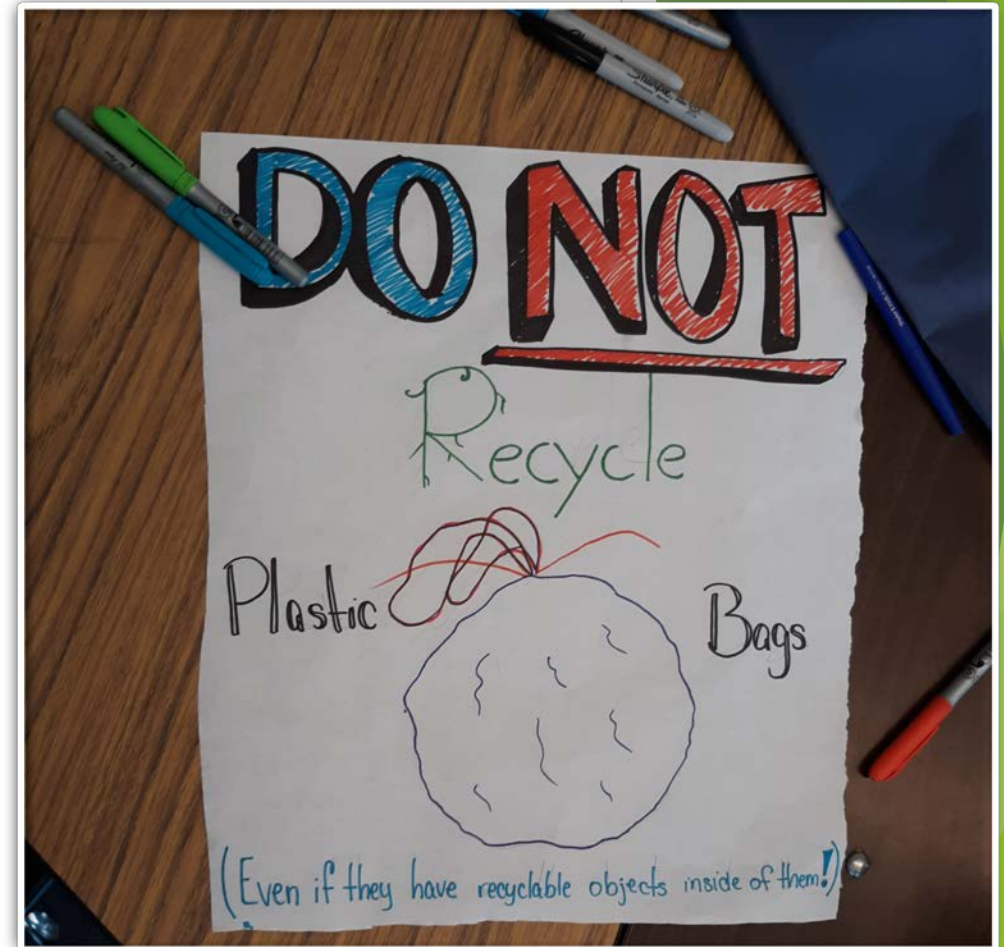
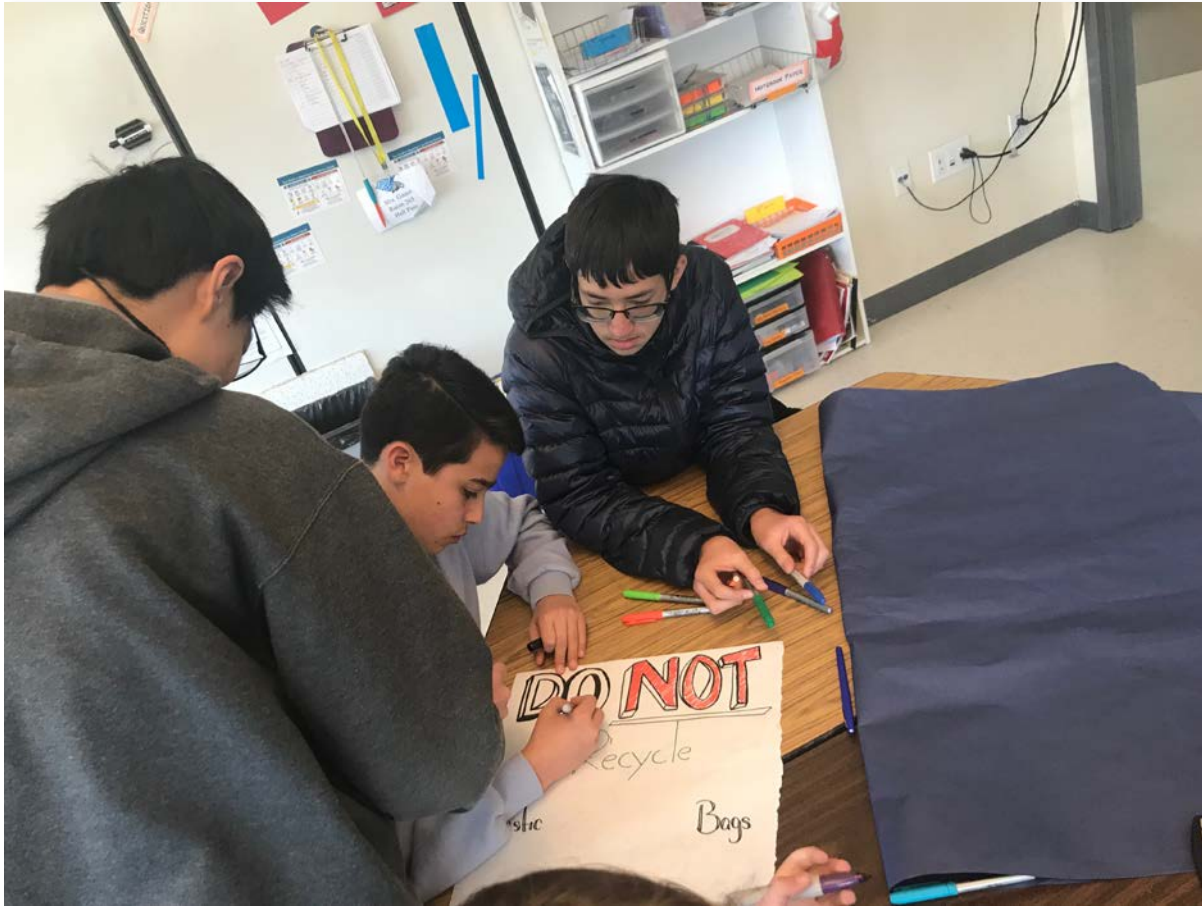
- \$15,000 RAID Grant
- 15 water bottle filling stations
- Installed at each school in LAPS

# LAHS Eco Club - Marched at the Climate Strike





# LAMS - Green Earth Club



Student implemented recycling and education



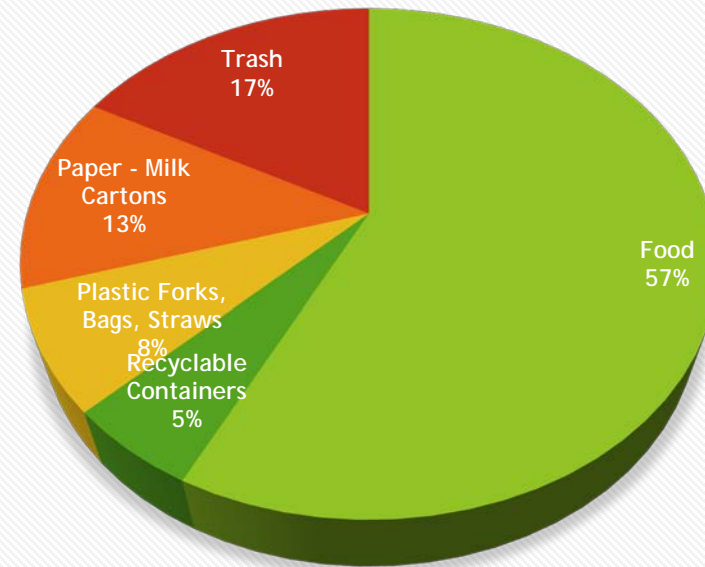
# Barranca Waste Sort



Students discovered:

- Over 50% of their waste is food
- A lot of the rest could have been prevented, recycled or composted
- They want more recycling and greener cafeterias

Barranca Elementary Waste Sort Results



Food Recyclable Containers Plastic Forks, Bags, Straws Paper - Milk Cartons Trash

# Future Plans/Priorities

FY20 Workplan Overview

# Challenges and Opportunities

## ► Challenges:

- Revenue received from recyclable material no longer exists.
- China's "National Sword" Impact on US Recycle Materials
- Recycle Contamination - challenge for the state, nation, and here in Los Alamos 17%
- Closure of Rio Rancho Landfill ~ 6 years
- Tip fee and transportation costs increase yearly by CPI.
  - (2019 - Transportation 7.1% and Disposal 3.1%)

## ► Opportunities:

- Continue to research and analyze alternate pathways for waste reduction such as backyard or community food composting, Save As You Throw program, and community education



# LAPS Team Priority: Empower the students to improve sustainability at school

High Priority Project

## ► Immediate Goals:

- Operation Green Cafeterias - eliminate Styrofoam and replace with reusable trays, cutlery, cups, etc
- Expand Recycling at LAPS especially in cafeterias
- Reduce waste through composting

## ► Future Goals:

- Work with LAPS to include green initiatives in school rebuilds like high efficiency dishwashers and more
- Research energy efficient school models and continue moving in that direction (Santa Fe currently saves 500K per year on utilities with added square footage)

# Zero Waste Team Priority - Decrease Food Waste in LA County

High Priority Project

- ▶ 40% of all food produced in the US is thrown away
- ▶ Reducing food waste is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most impactful way to reduce carbon emissions (Project Drawdown)
- ▶ Food Waste Prevention Campaign - focusing on food prevention, rescue, and recovery
  - ▶ Have already approached all 28 restaurants in town about solutions
- ▶ Promote and educate back yard composting for food waste diversion
- ▶ ZERO WASTE EVENTS: Earth Day (diverted 80%), Bear Festival, Summer Concert Series...oh my!



*In 2018, Los Alamos residents sent*

**1,740,000  
POUNDS OF  
FOOD WASTE  
TO THE  
LANDFILL**

*This cost ca. \$190,000  
to dispose*



**FOOD  
WASTE  
IN LOS  
ALAMOS**

*Yep, we waste food too*

**In 2018, LAC spent  
\$1.2 million  
on a methane  
extraction system  
for our closed  
landfill**



*Food waste in landfills is a major source  
of methane, a toxic greenhouse gas*



# Zero Waste Summer Concert Series

High Priority Project





# Save As You Throw Research Subcommittee

- ▶ What is Save As You Throw?
  - ▶ In Los Alamos County, residents currently pay a flat fee of \$25/month for all solid waste services no matter how much they dispose of. SAYT is a unit-based fee system that charges for the amount of trash generated.
- ▶ Goals
  - ▶ Equitable pricing
  - ▶ Tiered fee structure based on the size of the waste container that the citizen is utilizing
  - ▶ Keep the costs of Environmental Services programs as low as possible
  - ▶ Reduce material sent to landfill
  - ▶ Promotes recycling and composting
- ▶ Public Outreach - Open House June 20<sup>th</sup>, Presentations to CDAB, ESB, Farmer's Mkt, Open Forum Poll, Earth Day, Science Fest



# FY20 EVENTS/OUTREACH.

## 2019 EARTH DAY FESTIVAL AT PEEC

### IS A ZERO WASTE EVENT

We want you to produce as little trash as possible or not at all in efforts to send zero waste to the landfill.



- Pack a zero waste kit:
- Reusable water bottle
- Reusable containers
- Cups
- Napkins
- Straws
- Bags
- Remember parking will be limited, but you can ride your bike, carpool or take the bus!

LOS ALAMOS  
Environmental Services

Phone: 662-8163

Email: solidwaste@lacnm.us



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## CLEAN UP LOS ALAMOS DAY

Who is ready for the 16th annual Clean Up Los Alamos Day May 11th? This is the time to help out and make the community even more beautiful.

This year we want you to participate in the #trashtag challenge. Take a before and after picture of the area you choose to clean up. Post it on your social media and use the following hashtags:

#trashtag, #lovealosamos, #discoverlosalamos, #100ahamoments, #newmexicotrue, #gogreenlosalamos

Let's litter our captions and not our world.

You can register NOW  
online at  
[www.losalamosnm.us/gogreen](http://www.losalamosnm.us/gogreen)

Registration closes on  
May 6th.

There will be an appreciation  
lunch for the volunteers  
at Ashley Pond from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.



2019  
**CLEAN UP**  
LOS ALAMOS

Environmental Services  
662-8163  
solidwaste@lacnm.us

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HARDWARE



Booths at Farmer's Markets



Bear Festival - Zero  
Waste Event at PEEC

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FEST  
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# Other Continued Research...

- ▶ Research and develop rates to balance budget for Environmental Services Operations
- ▶ Project Drawdown in support of carbon reduction goals
- ▶ Other glass recycling options
- ▶ Waste to Energy Methods



# ESB and Council Working Together...

- ▶ Enhancing support and opportunities for local business environment
  - ▶ We support existing businesses by addressing waste needs and helping them reduce and recycle
  - ▶ We talked to all 28 restaurants in town and in turn added more cardboard recycle
  - ▶ Looking toward food compost as a future goal
- ▶ Protecting and Maintaining our Open Spaces
  - ▶ Reduction of all waste, increased composting through brush bins, awareness of food waste, increased food composting, education about zero waste, zero waste events, and other outreach events
- ▶ Investing in Infrastructure
  - ▶ Being mindful of green initiatives as upgrades happen, properly disposing of building waste, properly set up to recycle and education about zero waste as a mindset going in
- ▶ Planning for appropriate levels of county services
  - ▶ We always involve and engage the community as much as possible when it comes to changes. We serve as their voice.

