



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Agenda - Final Environmental Sustainability Board

*David Hampton, Chair; Erik Loechell, Vice-Chair; Sue Barns;
Carly Blair; Shannon Blair; Joseph Chandler
and Jack Grow; Members*

Thursday, June 18, 2026

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue - Council Chambers

NOTE: This meeting is in person and open to the public. However, for convenience the following Zoom meeting link and/or telephone call in numbers may be used for public viewing and participation. Please click this URL to join:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85656951187>

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

This section of the agenda is reserved for comments from the public on items that are not otherwise included in this agenda.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[21833-26](#)

Approval of May 21, 2026, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: David Hampton

Attachments: [A - ESB Meeting Minutes May 21, 2026](#)

5. **BOARD BUSINESS**

[21834-26](#)

Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Presentation

Presenters: Katie Thwaits

[21839-26](#)

Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation from Environmental Sustainability Board on Plastic Bag Ban

Presenters: David Hampton

Attachments: [A - Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance](#)

6. **REPORTS**

A. Chair's Report - David Hampton

- 1). Board of Public Utilities - Sue Barns/Shannon Blair/Carly Blair
- 2). Transportation Board - David Hampton
- 3). Parks and Recreation Board - Joseph Chandler
- 4). Council Liaison Report - Melanee Hand

B. Working Groups and Steering Committee

- 1). Bee City Los Alamos - Britton Donharl
- 2). Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance - Sue Barns
- 3). Education and Outreach Work Group

7. STAFF REPORT

[21840-26](#) Sustainability Manager Updates

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Attachments: [A - Residential Sustainability Report - MAY 2026.pdf](#)

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- Bio Solid Composting Operation by Josh Silva - July 2026
- Quarterly Climate Action Update by Angelica Gurule - July 2026
- Integrated Pest Management Update by Cory Styron - TBD

9. ADJOURNMENT

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or any other form of auxiliary aid or service to attend or participate in the hearing or meeting, please contact the County Human Resources Division at 662-8040 at least one week prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Public documents, including the agenda and minutes can be provided in various accessible formats. Please contact the personnel in the Community Services Administration Office at 662-8163 if a summary or other type of accessible format is needed.



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Staff Report

June 18, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: David Hampton

Legislative File: 21833-26

Title

Approval of May 21, 2026, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Recommended Action Motion

I move that the Environmental Sustainability Board approve May 21, 2026, minutes as presented.

Or

I move that the Environmental Sustainability Board approve May 21, 2026, minutes as amended.

Body

The ESB will review and approve the Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes from May 21, 2026.

Attachments

A - Draft ESB Minutes May 21, 2026



County of Los Alamos

BCC Meeting Minutes - Draft

Environmental Sustainability Board

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

*David Hampton, Chair; Erik Loechell, Vice-Chair; Sue Barns; Carly Blair; Shannon Blair;
Joseph Chandler
and Jack Grow; Members*

Thursday, May 21, 2026

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue - Municipal
Building B&C Room 110 and Via Zoom

NOTE: This meeting is in person and open to the public. However, for convenience the following Zoom meeting link and/or telephone call in numbers may be used for public viewing and participation. Please click this URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85656951187>

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

5:30 p.m. Absent members Carly Blair and Jack Grow.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda for the Environmental Sustainability Meeting of May 21, 2026 approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[21703-26](#) Approval of April 16, 2026, Environmental Sustainability Board Minutes

Presenters: David Hampton

Motion to approve the Environmental Sustainability minutes of April 16, 2026, approved unanimously.

5. BOARD BUSINESS

[21704-26](#) Presentation of Ridwell Recycling Program

Presenters: David Hampton

Presentation by Ridwell, Chief Executive Officer, Ryan Metzger leads a recycling program focused on collecting hard-to-recycle materials and helping ensure those items are reused through innovative solutions. Ridwell offers both collection and mail-in services. Presentation is attached.

21705-26 Overview of On Bill Financing Program**Presenters:** Angelica Gurule

Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule gave an overview of “On Bill Financing Program”, where On-Financing allows utility customers to pay for energy improvements, such as heat pumps, electrical panel upgrades, heat pump water heaters, insulation, or other energy-efficient technologies, through a loan that can be paid on their monthly utility bill instead of paying the full cost upfront.

21702-26 Provide Update on Development of Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance**Presenters:** Shannon Blair

Member Shannon Blair gave an update on the single-use plastic bag band. The ESB plastic bag band committee has drafted an ordinance and sent it to the County Attorney for review; ordinance will be reviewed at the June ESB meeting and will then make recommendations. There is a tentative meeting scheduled for June 8th, there will be a public meeting on the plastic bag ban.

6. REPORTS**A. Chair's Report - David Hampton****None****1). Board of Public Utilities - Sue Barns/Shannon Blair/Carly Blair**

Member Barns reported that at the May 6th Board of Public Utilities (BPU) work session the discussed the gas rate ordinance and voted on a proposed gas rate increase to restore the gas fund. Discussion on all the different electrical resources.

2). Transportation Board - David Hampton

Chair Hampton reported that at Transportation Board meeting they saw the equestrian and bicycle presentation before going to Council. Talked about bicycle safety, mentioned the illuminated crosswalks on Central.

3). Parks and Recreation Board - Joseph Chandler**None.****B. Working Groups and Steering Committee****1). Bee City Los Alamos - Britton Donharl**

Chair Hampton reported that he talked to Britton Donharl and Bee City would like to do more of the pollinator gardens at the golf course, however the weeding is enormous and they don't have enough volunteers to expand.

2). Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance - Sue Barns

Member Barns reported that there was a debrief of Earth Day. Abbey Hayward gave water and energy conservation update. There will be a rain barrel workshop at the Nature Center using retrofitted old trash roll carts.

3). Education and Outreach Work Group - Sue Barns

ESB will be doing Farmers Market table once a month if anyone is interested. Water Festival was lovely!

7. STAFF REPORT

Councilor Hand gave a report on a company from Santa Fe that does all kinds of recycling, she was not advocating, however wanted to mention it to ESB. Nothing to report on Council agendas having to do with ESB.

21701-26 Sustainability Manager Updates

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule reported that the May Sustainability Newsletter focused on extreme heat and cooling centers. The County has identified cooling centers around the county. Mesa Public charging station project is on pause for a few weeks, will begin again in 3 weeks. Still looking at chargers for fleet vehicles. EP rescinded the grant Los Alamos County had been selected for, mostly because of permitting, starting to talk about how we can pivot and work toward our zero waste goals. Shared the Sustainability Report.

8. PREVIEW OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

- Katie Thwaites - Open Meetings Act (June)
- Bio Solid Composting Operation - Josh Silva (July)
- Bag Ban Proposed Ordinance - June

9. ADJOURNMENT

7:48 p.m.

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Ridwell

Wasting less, made easy

Hello, Los Alamos!
May 2026



Our Story: A Father and Son Project

In 2018, each week we helped neighbors reuse and recycle items not collected curbside



Why not stop there?

Climate impacts + need for new way to recycle, given China Sword

BBC

Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Travel Earth Video Live

Oceans littered with 171 trillion plastic pieces

8 March 2023
By Georgina Rannard, BBC Climate and science reporter



Environment

King County's landfill has been almost full for two decades. What happens next?

March 26, 2019 at 6:00 am | Updated March 26, 2019 at 11:17 pm



ing stacked at facility in Costa Rica last June. EZEQUIEL BECERRA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Piling Up: How China's Ban on Importing Waste Has Stalled Global Recycling

The problem we're motivated to solve

It's so easy to create waste, yet incredibly difficult to get rid of it (well)!



Two ways Ridwell works

Two ways to rid-well — same mission, built for where you are, full transparency along the way.



Ridwell Pickups

Doorstep collection of over 15 different categories every two weeks from hard to recycle plastics to batteries to Styrofoam and textiles.

Available in 8 major markets (with more on deck!)



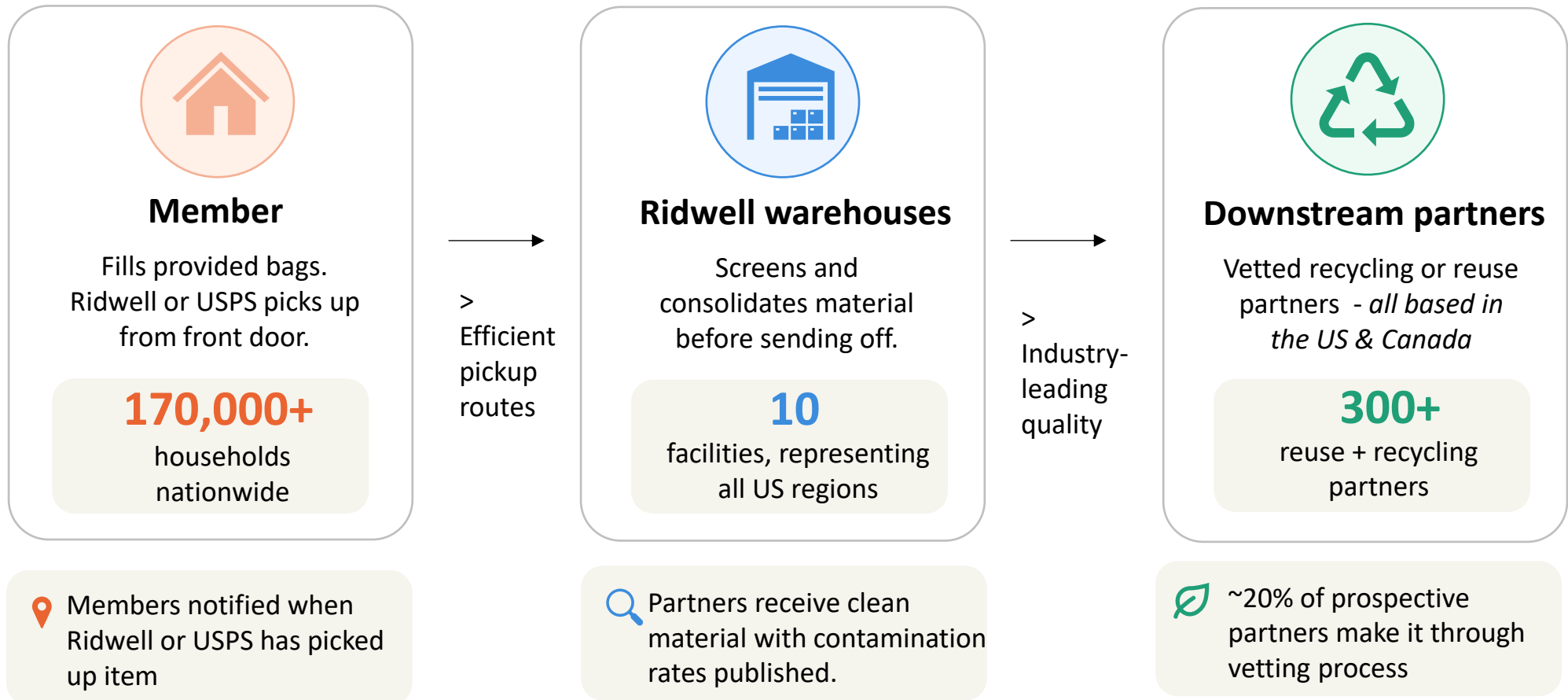
Ridwell Mail-in

National access to our most popular categories—plastic film, multi-layer plastic, pill bottles and more—with prepaid USPS-shipping to the closest warehouse!

Available nation-wide. *New Mexico growing quickly!*

Built to scale. Built to last.

Powered by 170,000+ members, 10 warehouses, and 300+ partners — all across the US and Canada.



**Full visibility and tracking showing where material is traveling and what it becomes*

The most trusted option is also the most affordable.

Our network and tech keep costs low without cutting corners on where materials actually go



Pickup service

Biweekly curbside collection



\$18 – \$20
per month

SomaCycle
NJ

\$35
per month

Recycle Revolution
TX

\$43
per month

↓ Ridwell costs up to 2.4× less than comparable services



Mail-in service

Available in New Mexico now!



\$9 – \$12
per large bag

TerraCycle
small bag

\$43
per bag

TerraCycle Zero Waste Box

\$110
per box

↓ Ridwell costs up to 12× less and our bags hold as much as a box!



Lower cost is a direct result of national scale — more members means more volume, better partner rates, and more efficient routing. The savings pass through to residents.



~~FORTY - THREE
FIFTEEN
MILLION
POUNDS~~

saved from the
waste stream



With impact far beyond the numbers

Like...

Partnerships with elementary schools!



Supporting non-profit reuse drives



And making fully circular products



Meet Ridwell Mail-In



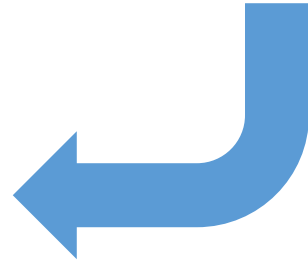
A solution for your thin plastics: plastic film

Grocery bags, shipping envelopes, bubble wrap, zip lock bags, overwrap and more!



A solution for your thin plastics: multi-layer plastic

Snack wrappers, chip bags, food storage bags, pet food bags, granola bars, and more!



Three new items added (with more on the way!)



Prescription Pill Bottles



Bottle Caps & Lids



Corks

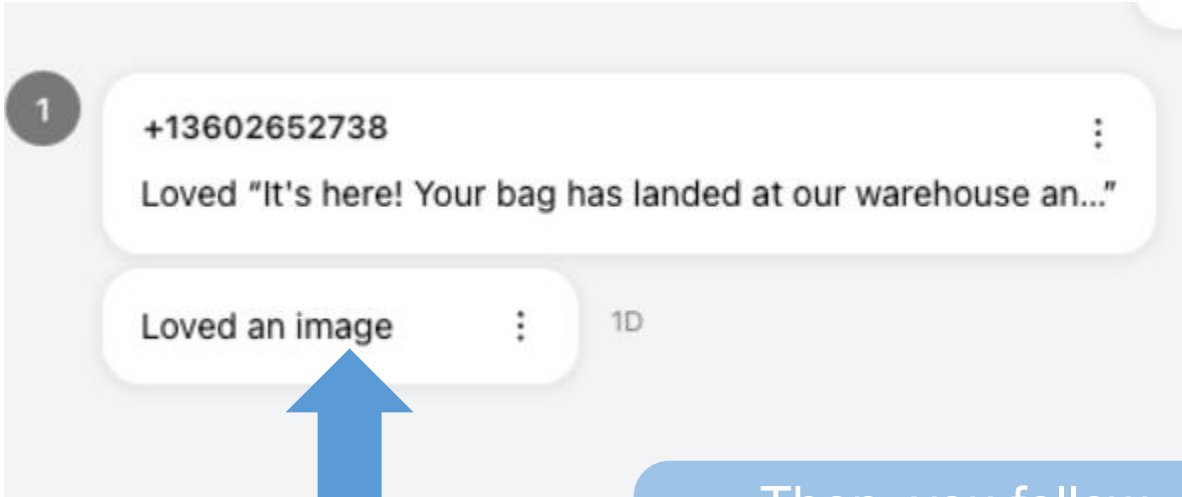
Easy in-home set up for the whole household



Like our pickups, we make it easy and inspiring to rid-well!



Just leave your bag out where the mail gets dropped off and the USPS will grab it!



Then, you follow along on its recycling journey!

And that's about to get a lot easier!



Meet Sortwell

Point your camera at a piece of plastic – see the best way to recycle it!

**App is free to use – ask me afterward how to get access!*

More than a service. A community partner.

We're not just a vendor. We bring the tools, data, and infrastructure your zero-waste goals need.



Customer education

In-person & virtual training
Sortwell app reflecting local recycling guidelines



Data sharing

Volume and destination data provided on usage from all residents



Mail-in bulk rates

City-led promotion and committed volume could unlock lower rates for residents



Warehouse + jobs

Eyeing a local facility in 2027-2028 that would bring local jobs and more diversion opportunities.

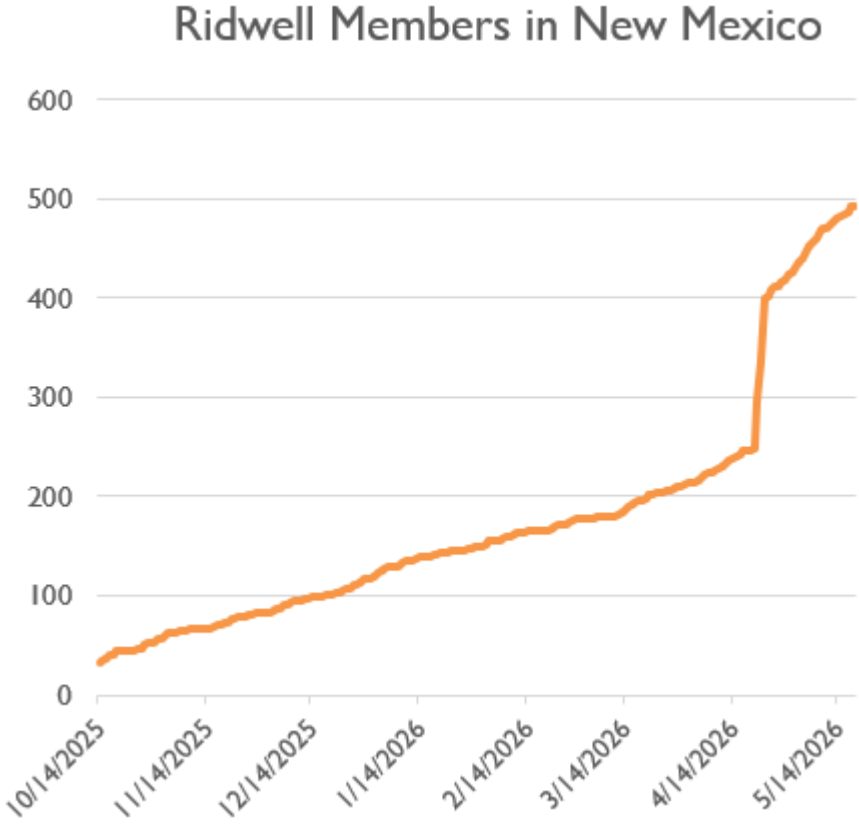


Lower-cost pickups

City-wide quarterly pickups of hard-to-recycle items
Vouchers to lower consumer cost

Why we're excited to do that in New Mexico

After recent visits, jumped to **8th nationally** in per capita adoption. Many motivated to bring local warehouse to area!



Los Alamos is ready. So are we.

We'd love to leave today with a shared sense of what's possible and a clear next step.

Every community partnership starts with a conversation.

We'd love to hear what success looks like for Los Alamos — and show you what's possible from there.





County of Los Alamos

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Staff Report

June 18, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Katie Thwaits

Legislative File: 21834-26

Title

Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Presentation

Recommended Action Motion

N/A

Body

Katie Thwaits, Deputy County Attorney will present an overview of the Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records. Environmental Sustainability Board members will learn about the requirements of the Act including: the process to properly provide meeting notices to the public, rolling quorums and other applicable requirements.

Attachments

Attachments to be provided at the meeting.



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Staff Report

June 18, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: David Hampton

Legislative File: 21839-26

Title

Discussion and Possible Action on Recommendation from Environmental Sustainability Board on Plastic Bag Ban

...Recommended Action Motion

I move that the Environmental Sustainability Board recommend the proposed the single-use plastic bag ordinance be presented for public engagement and comment as presented.

OR

I move that the Environmental Sustainability Board recommend the proposed the single-use plastic bag ordinance be presented for public engagement and comment with the following changes: _____.

Body

The Plastic Bag Working Group will present the proposed single use plastic bag ordinance to the Board for their review and input. The Board will be asked to make a recommendation on the proposed single-use plastic bag ordinance.

History

During the January 14, 2025, Los Alamos County Council meeting, they requested the ESB to "Evaluate single use plastic bags to include factors such as ability to recycle and other alternatives and cost to County to recycle and engagement to include local businesses and other interested parties." The Environmental Sustainability Board adopted this initiative in their 2025 Work Plan and since then, the ESB formed a working group, consisting of Chair Shannon Blair and members Hermann Geppert-Kleinrath and Rebecca Paley-Williams. The working group has spent the past couple of months researching and interviewing other municipalities that have adopted a plastic bag ordinance. The working group will provide an update to the ESB and the board will make a recommendation to provide County Council.

In October 16, 2025, Chair Blair presented the findings of the research to Council and asked for further direction and guidance on community engagement.

During the April 7, 2026, Los Alamos County Council meeting, Council directed the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) to return within 90 days with a proposal for a

single-use plastic bag ban informed by other programs in New Mexico. The language presented here reflects the general substance of Council's direction and is not a verbatim quotation of the motion. Council also expressed a preference for an approach that does not include a mandatory fee. While not formally included in the motion, Council indicated that community engagement should be incorporated into the process.

On April 16, 2026, ESB meeting, Chair Hampton appointed a working group consisting of Vice-Chair Erik Loechell, Member Shannon Blair and Member Jack Grow. They will provide regular updates to the ESB on progress made toward the development of the single-use plastic bag ordinance.

On May 21, 2026, the plastic bag working group reported they developed a draft ordinance and it was submitted to the County attorney for their review and revision.

Attachments

A - Proposed Single-Use Plastic Bag Ordinance

INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS CODE ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 18, ARTICLE V, BANNING THE DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS AND ENCOURAGING RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS TO CHARGE A FEE FOR RECYCLED CONTENT PAPER CARRYOUT BAGS.

WHEREAS, single-use plastic carryout bags do not biodegrade and instead persist in the environment for hundreds of years, slowly breaking down through abrasion, tearing and photo degradation into toxic plastic bits that contaminate soil and water while entering the food web when animals inadvertently ingest these materials; and

WHEREAS, the litter problem resulting from single-use plastic carryout bags is becoming increasingly difficult to manage and has costly negative implications for tourism, wildlife and aesthetics. It is the Incorporated County of Los Alamos' ("County") desire to conserve resources, reduce waste, litter, pollution and protect the public health, safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, this Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bag Ordinance will eliminate the use of single-use plastic carryout bags by Retail Establishments within the jurisdiction of the County and encourage the use of reusable bags; therefore;

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INCORPORATED COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 18, Article V, is hereby added to the Los Alamos County Code of Ordinances and shall state as follows:

Article V - Single-Use Plastic Carryout Bags

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to protect and enhance the County's unique and precious environment, wildlife, and beauty through the reduction of Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags and to encourage the use of reusable or sustainable options. The litter problem resulting from Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags is becoming increasingly difficult to manage and has costly negative implications for tourism, wildlife, and the waterways. Due to such negative implications, Single-use Plastic Carryout Bags are injurious to the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the County and are therefore a public nuisance.

Section 3. Definitions

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this Article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Code Official means the county official who is charged with the administration and enforcement of this Code, or any representative authorized by the County Manager.

Owner means any individual, partnership, limited partnership, firm, company, corporation, association, joint-stock company, trust, estate, or other legal entity that owns a

Retail Establishment, or their representative, agent or assigns who are responsible for the daily operation of the store.

Plastic means a synthetic material made from linking monomers through a chemical reaction to create a polymer chain that can be molded or extruded at high heat into various solid forms, including material derived from petroleum or a biologically based polymer such as corn or other plant sources.

Recyclable Cardboard Box means a box made of non-coated cardboard, corrugated paper or paper.

Recycled Content Carryout Paper Bag means a carryout bag that is made of paper and contains a minimum of forty percent post-consumer recycled paper content and is one hundred percent recyclable.

Retail Establishment means a retail business including, but not limited to, a convenience store, restaurant, grocery store, pharmacy, food truck, home improvement store, liquor store, gas station, seasonal or temporary business, farmers market or farm stand, food or good delivery service provider, and seller of merchandise and dry goods to consumer.

Reusable Carryout Bag means a carryout bag that is designed and manufactured for multiple uses; is made of cloth or hemp product; and has stitched handles (either thread or ultrasonic).

Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag means a checkout or carryout bag made from Plastic that is provided to a customer for the purpose of transporting groceries, food, or other goods.

Section 4. Policy

(a) Retail Establishments shall not provide or sell to a customer a Single-use Plastic Carryout Bag or any other bag or box that is not a Reusable Carryout Bag, Recycled Content Carryout Paper Bag, or Recyclable Cardboard Box for the purpose of carrying groceries, food, or other goods.

(b) This Section shall not apply to bags:

1. provided to customers for use with loose or bulk products, produce, meat or fish or when provided for separating items to avoid contamination or prevent damage from moisture or for sanitary, public health or environmental protection purposes;
2. provided for prepared takeout food with a potential for leakage, as determined by the Retail Establishment, that is not intended for consumption on the Retail Establishment's premises;
3. provided by healthcare providers or veterinarians to contain prescription drugs or medical necessities;
4. provided by laundry or dry-cleaning establishments;
5. used to transport or contain live animals;
6. used to transport chemical pesticides or drain-cleaning or other toxic chemicals sold at Retail Establishments;
7. used to protect newspapers from inclement weather;

8. distributed by manufacturers for packaging or preparing goods for display prior to sale; or
9. provided by food banks.

Section 5. Fee for Recycled Content Carryout Paper Bag. Retail Establishments are encouraged to impose a fee for each Recycled Content Carryout Paper Bag provided to customers in order to offset the Retail Establishment's costs of complying with this Article and to encourage the use of Reusable Carryout Bags.

Section 6. Responsibility of Enforcement. The County Code Compliance Officer and Code Officials are authorized to enforce the provisions of this Article.

Section 7. Penalties.

(a) Any owner of Retail Establishment who violates any of the provisions of this Article shall be deemed guilty of a petty misdemeanor, and, upon conviction shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. A fine of not more than \$100.00 for the first violation;
2. A fine of not more than \$200.00 for the second violation;
3. A fine of not more than \$500.00 for the third violation; and
4. A fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than five days or both for the fifth or subsequent violations.

(b) Each day an owner of a Retail Establishment violates this Article shall constitute a separate violation.

(c) Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the County from taking other such lawful action as may be necessary to prevent or remedy any violation or to bring an action to enjoin any violation of this Article.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective one hundred eighty (180) days after the publication of the notice of adoption.

Section 9. Severability. Should any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this ordinance, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this ordinance.

Section 10. Repealer. All ordinances or resolutions, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed only to the extent of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any ordinance or resolution, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, _____.

COUNCIL OF THE INCORPORATED

COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS

**Randall Ryti
Council Chair**

ATTEST: (SEAL)

**Michael D. Redondo
Los Alamos County Clerk**



County of Los Alamos

Los Alamos, NM 87544
www.losalamosnm.us

Staff Report

June 18, 2026

Agenda No.:

Index (Council Goals):

Presenters: Angelica Gurule

Legislative File: 21840-26

Title

Sustainability Manager Updates

Body

The ESB receives routine updates from the Sustainability Manager.

The May Sustainability Newsletter focused on Climate Anxiety. Subscribers increased from 147 to 149 and has a 62% engagement rate.

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
 - a. Los Alamos County received NMDOT DC Fast Charging Grant funding. The project will construct two DC Fast Chargers at Mesa Public Library, with each port providing a minimum of 150 kW.
 - i. September 30 - Council approved grant agreement and passed a Resolution.
 - ii. February - EV equipment was procured.
 - iii. May 18 - Construction will commenced and then paused for 3 weeks.
 - iv. June 8 - Project commenced.
 - b. For FY27 preparations are underway to construct chargers dedicated to the County Fleet.
2. Municipal food composting program is on hold; the County was selected to receive a \$1.2M grant for food composting, unfortunately the grant award was rescinded due to unforeseen circumstances. The County has begun solicitation process to hire a contractor that would provide collection and composting services.
3. On Bill Financing - BPU approved further exploration and development of program. Final details will be presented to BPU for approval.
4. Events:
 - a. Upcoming
 - i. Farmer's Markets - 3rd Thursday of each month from June through September
 - ii. Science Fest - September
 - iii. Clean Up LA Day - September

Attachments

A - Residential Sustainability Report - May 2026



Residential Sustainability Report

Service Period: May 2026

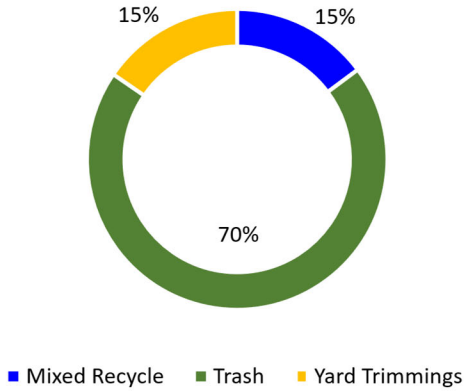


LOS ALAMOS

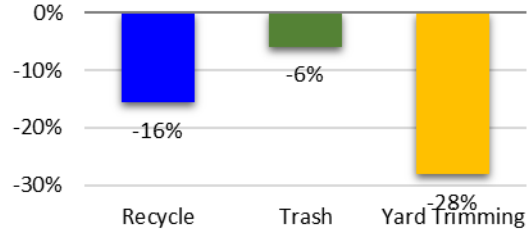
May Diversion Rate: 30%

The *diversion rate* is the percent of recyclable and compostable material diverted from the landfill.

Monthly Collection Report

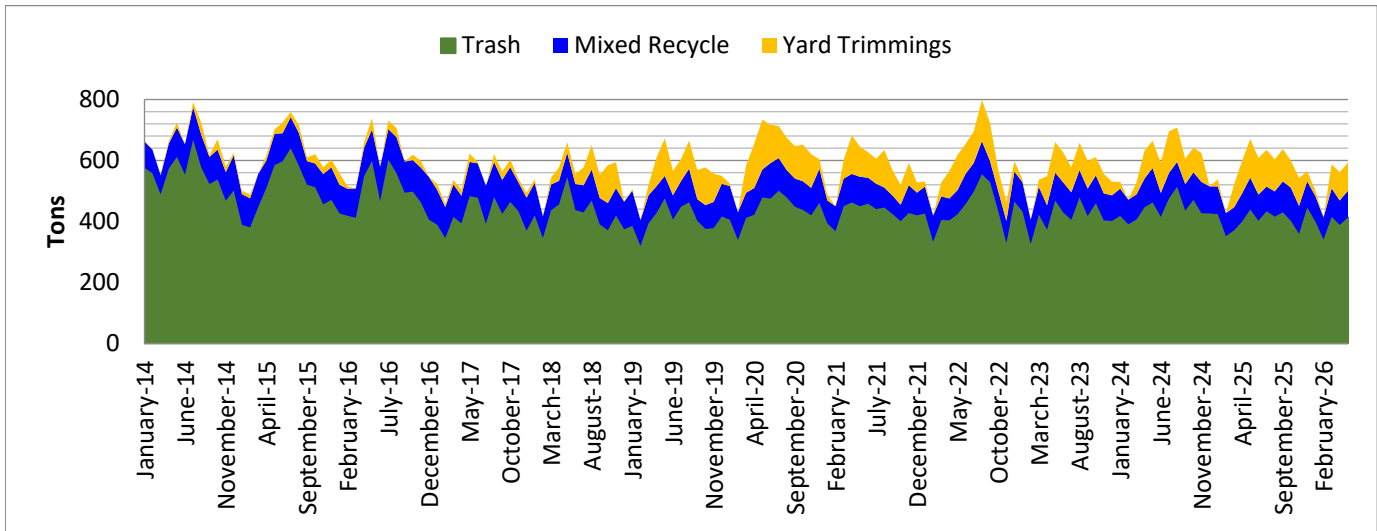


% Change Previous Year



	May-25	May-26
Yard Trimming	127.10	91.37
Recycle	104.07	87.83
Trash	439.28	412.96

In May by recycling and composting Los Alamos County reduced GHG emissions by ~480 tons*



In 2026 by recycling and composting Los Alamos County reduced GHG emissions by ~1,1989 tons*

- **9 trucks of recycle and 9 trucks of yard trimmings** were diverted from the landfill.
- **19 trucks of trash** were transported to the Valencia Landfill costing **\$36,405** in transport and tipping fees.

For more information contact Environmental Services Division at 505.662.8163 or email solidwaste@lacnm.us

*GHG emissions calculated using <https://www.stopwaste.co/calculator>