



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.

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.

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

Ridwell

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!)



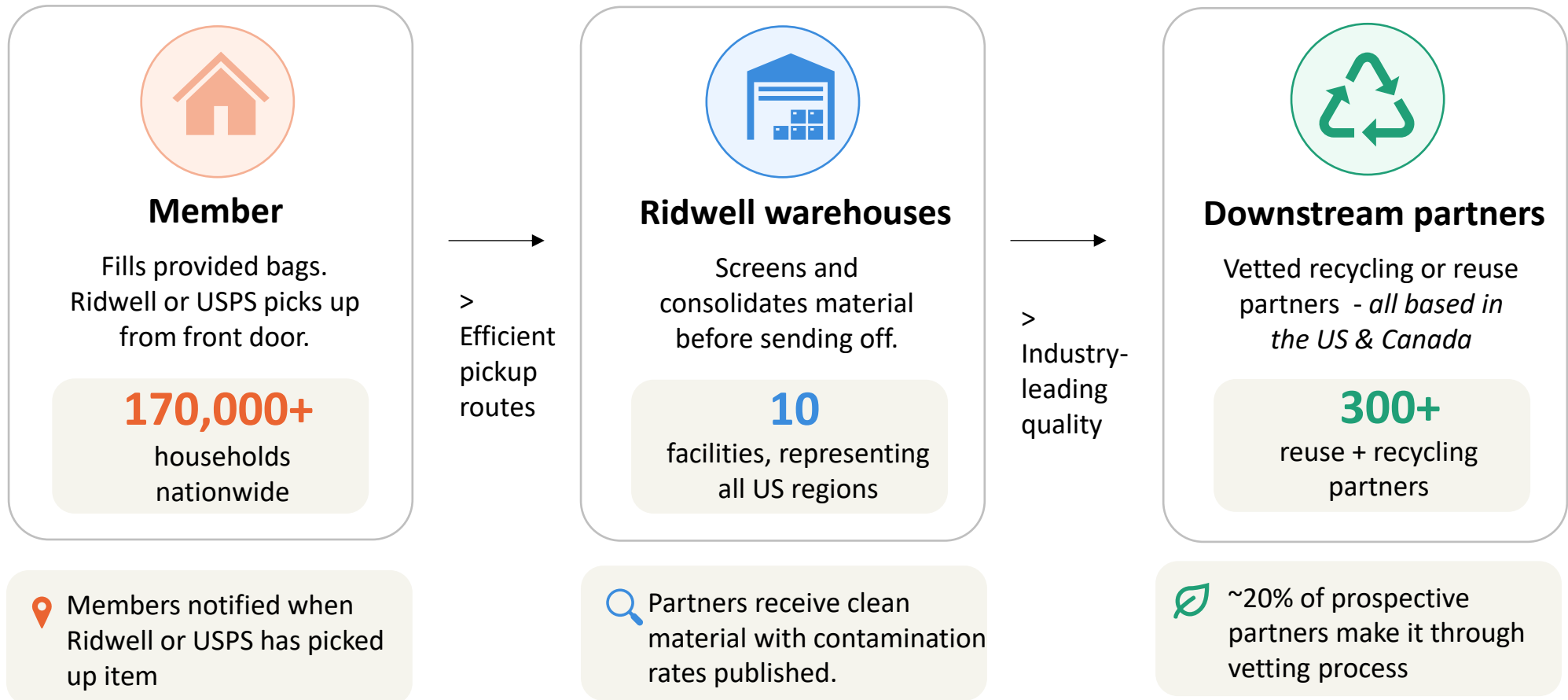
Ridwell Mail-in

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

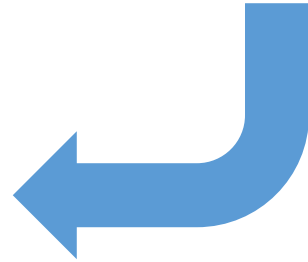


Grocery bags, shipping envelopes, bubble wrap, zip lock bags, overwrap and more!



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

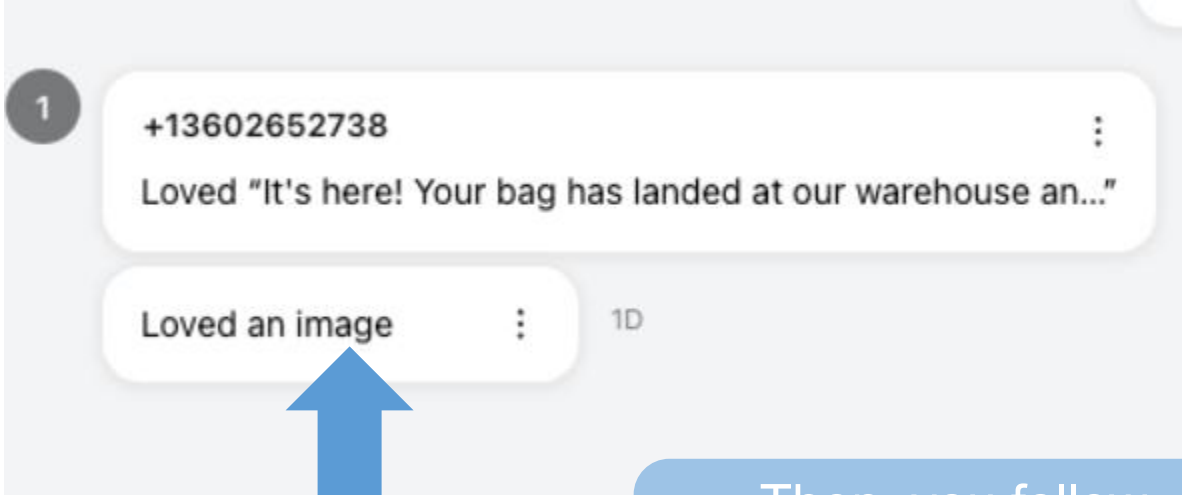
Easy in-home set up for the whole household



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.



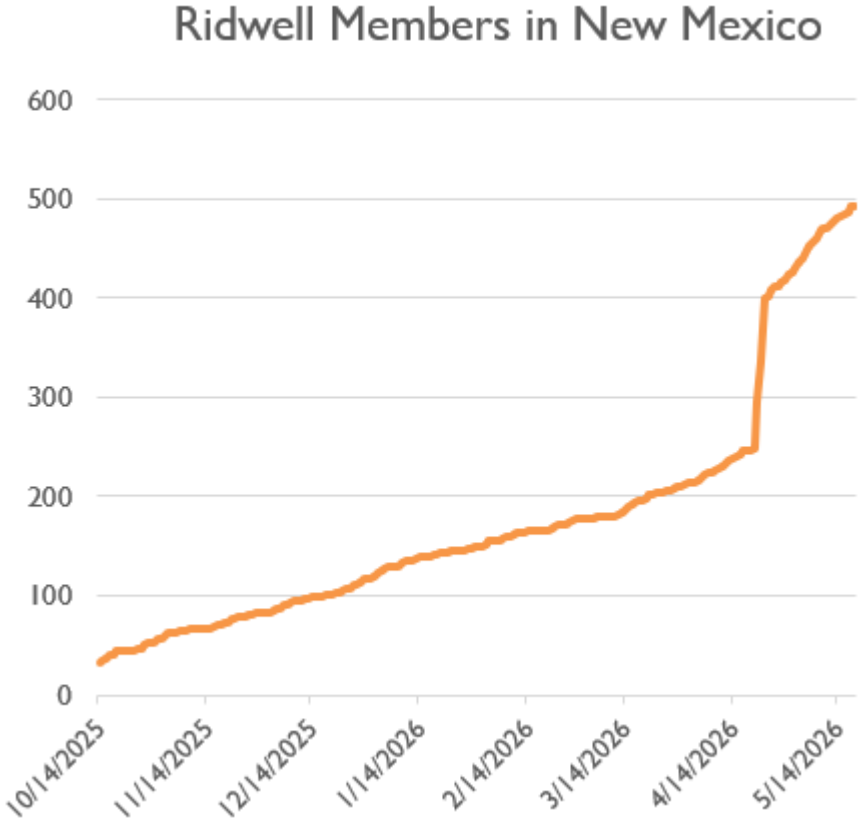
Lower-cost pickups

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.

