

ATTACHMENT A

LOS ALAMOS COUNTY PROPOSAL

Expanding Single-Use Plastic Recycling

Recycling more of what we use — and wasting less.

Supports the Climate Action Plan & Environmental Sustainability Goals

Presented to County Council · July 2026 – Melanee Hand





Why Expand Recycling

A community-wide program delivers value on three fronts.

1

Added convenience

One community-wide program makes it easy to recycle far more single-use plastics — motivating residents to recycle more.

2

Anticipated lower individual cost

A shared service spreads costs and invites companies to launch local recycling — cheaper than every household going it alone.

3

A healthier planet

Diverting more plastics into new uses cuts waste and directly advances the Climate Action Plan and sustainability goals.

The Ask for Council

Direct the Environmental Sustainability Board to lead the following work and report back to Council.

1

Commission the research

Study a single-use plastic recycling expansion program — its scope, costs, alternatives, and realistic timelines.

2

Align with contracts

Review current recycling contracts to see if expansion fits as added scope with the existing vendor, or needs a competitive bid.

3

Engage residents

Hold a town meeting or survey on interest, acceptable cost thresholds, and community-wide versus individual cost comparisons.

Strategies & Next Steps

Have the Board weigh expansion models, then report back.

1

Integrated pick-up

Fold added plastics into existing curbside collection routes.

2

Periodic drop-off drives

Scheduled community events for harder-to-recycle plastics.

3

Hybrid or new models

Combine approaches or explore emerging recycling options.

Contractor capacity: confirm whether one vendor can handle all current and new plastics — or if multiple contractors are needed.

