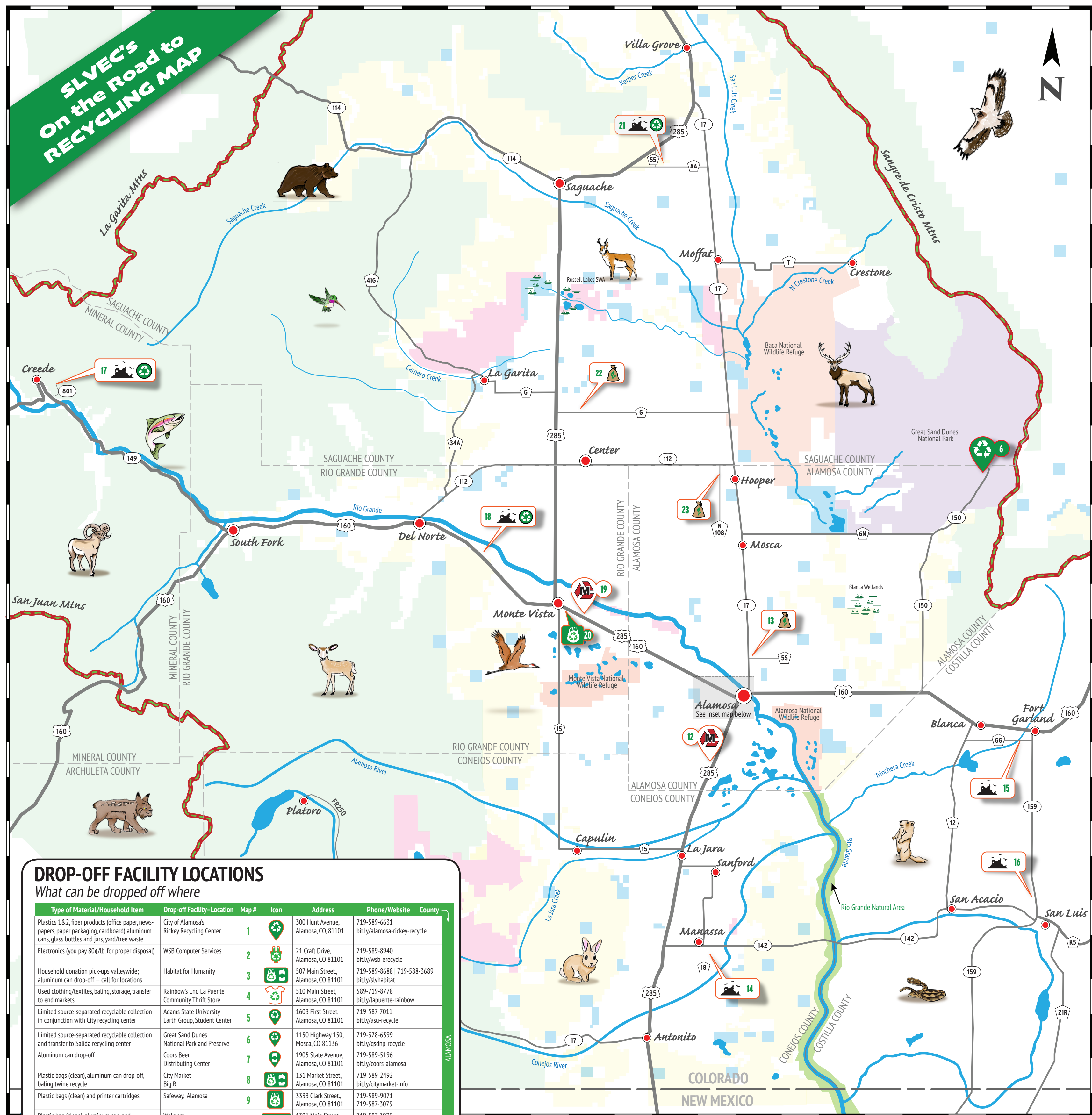


SLVEC's  
On the Road to  
RECYCLING MAP



DROP-OFF FACILITY LOCATIONS

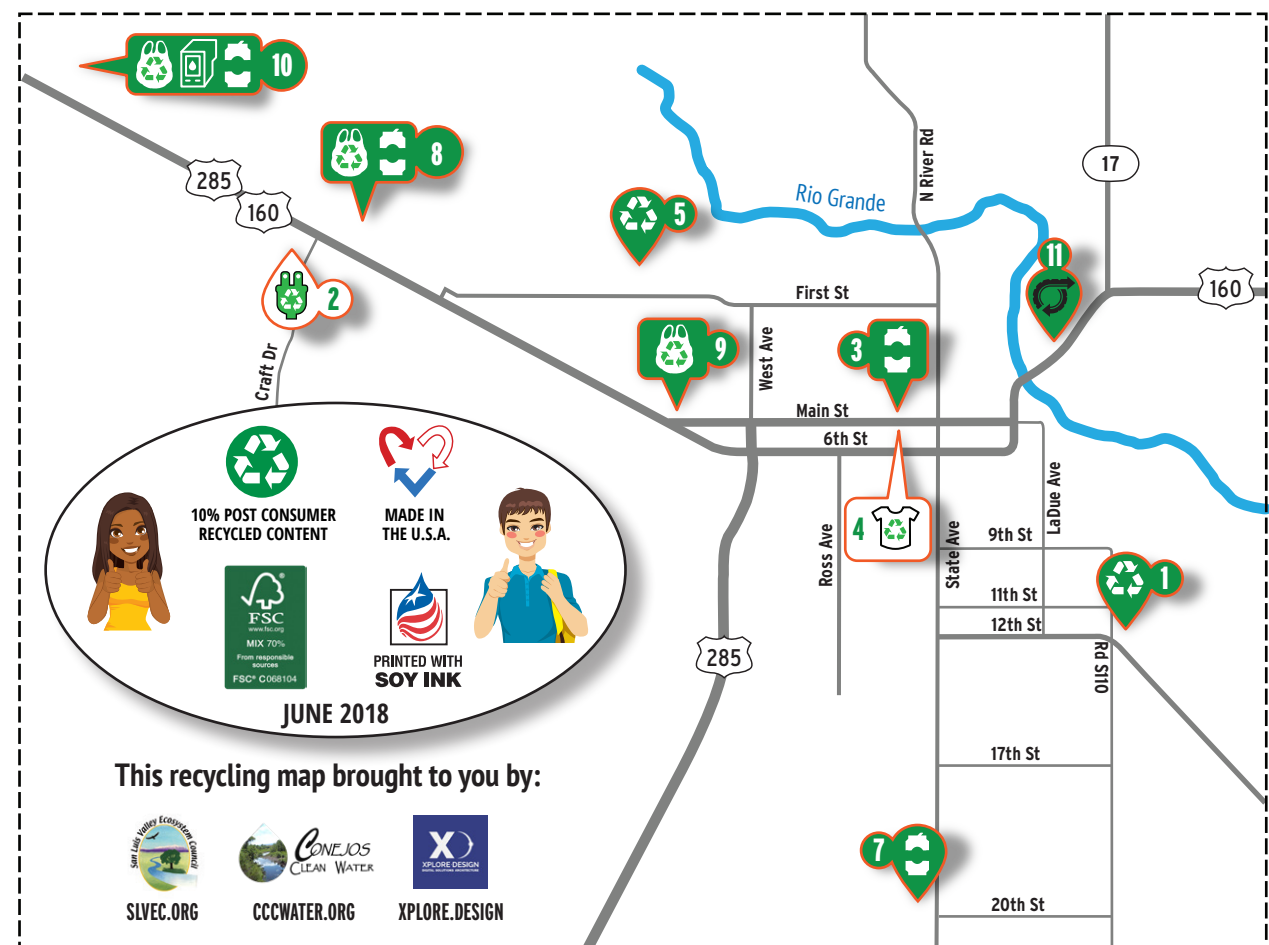
What can be dropped off where

| Type of Material/Household Item  | Drop-off Facility-Location                         | Map # | Icon | Address   | Phone/Website   | County     |
|--|--|-------|------|---|---|------------|
| Plastics 1&2, fiber products (office paper, newspapers, paper packaging, cardboard) aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, yard/tree waste | City of Alamosa's Rickey Recycling Center          | 1     |      | 300 Hunt Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101                    | 719-589-6631<br>bit.ly/alamosa-rickey-recycle           | ALAMOSA    |
| Electronics (you pay 80¢/lb. for proper disposal)  | WSB Computer Services                              | 2     |      | 21 Craft Drive, Alamosa, CO 81101                     | 719-589-8940<br>bit.ly/wsb-erecycle                     | ALAMOSA    |
| Household donation pick-ups valleywide; aluminum can drop-off - call for locations   | Habitat for Humanity                               | 3     |      | 507 Main Street, Alamosa, CO 81101                    | 719-589-8688   719-588-3689<br>bit.ly/slvhabitat        | ALAMOSA    |
| Used clothing/textiles, baling, storage, transfer to end markets   | Rainbow's End La Puente Community Thrift Store     | 4     |      | 510 Main Street, Alamosa, CO 81101                    | 589-719-8778<br>bit.ly/lapiente-rainbow                 | ALAMOSA    |
| Limited source-separated recyclable collection in conjunction with City recycling center   | Adams State University Earth Group, Student Center | 5     |      | 1603 First Street, Alamosa, CO 81101                  | 719-587-7011<br>bit.ly/asu-recycle                      | ALAMOSA    |
| Limited source-separated recyclable collection and transfer to Salida recycling center   | Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve        | 6     |      | 1150 Highway 150, Mosca, CO 81136                     | 719-378-6399<br>bit.ly/gsdnp-recycle                    | ALAMOSA    |
| Aluminum can drop-off  | Coors Beer Distributing Center                     | 7     |      | 1905 State Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101                  | 719-589-5196<br>bit.ly/coors-alamosa                    | ALAMOSA    |
| Plastic bags (clean), aluminum can drop-off, baling twine recycle  | City Market Big R                                  | 8     |      | 131 Market Street, Alamosa, CO 81101                  | 719-589-2492<br>bit.ly/citymarket-info                  | ALAMOSA    |
| Plastic bags (clean) and printer cartridges  | Safeway, Alamosa                                   | 9     |      | 3333 Clark Street, Alamosa, CO 81101                  | 719-589-9071<br>719-587-3075                            | ALAMOSA    |
| Plastic bag (clean), aluminum can, and printer cartridge drop-off  | Walmart  | 10    |      | 1301 Main Street, Alamosa, CO 81101                   | 719-587-3075  | ALAMOSA    |
| Compacts used tires into bales   | Ace In Your Pocket                                 | 11    |      | 183 Broadway, Alamosa, CO 81101                       | 719-587-0191<br>bit.ly/ace-tires                        | ALAMOSA    |
| Scrap metal  | Star Steel & Supply                                | 12    |      | 14513 Estrella Road, Alamosa, CO 81101                | 719-589-5385<br>bit.ly/starsteel                        | ALAMOSA    |
| Organic potting soil, mushroom farm waste  | Rocky Mountain Soil                                | 13    |      | 4903 S Highway 17, Alamosa, CO 81101                  | 719-589-9337  | ALAMOSA    |
| Trash only, no recyclables   | Silver Mountain Disposal transfer station          | 14    |      | 11416 CR 18, Manassa, CO 81141                        | 719-845-5354<br>bit.ly/smd-transfer                     | CONEJOS    |
| Trash only, no recyclables   | Fort Garland Transfer Station                      | 15    |      | County Road GG, ~2 miles SW of Fort Garland, CO 81133 | 719-672-3601<br>bit.ly/costilla-transfer                | COSTILLA   |
| Trash only, no recyclables   | San Luis Transfer Station                          | 16    |      | County Road 19, 2 miles North of San Luis, CO 81152   | 719-672-3601<br>bit.ly/sanluis-transfer                 | COSTILLA   |
| Landfill, roll-off available for recyclables   | Mineral County Landfill                            | 17    |      | Road 801, South of Creede, CO 81130                   | 719-658-2360<br>bit.ly/mineral-landfill                 | MINERAL    |
| Landfill and provides recycling for baling twine, and roll-off available for recyclables   | SLV Regional Solid Waste Authority                 | 18    |      | 1600 CR 44, Monte Vista, CO 81144                     | 719-852-3810<br>slvlandfill.com                         | RIO GRANDE |
| Scrap metal, autos, diverse items  | Colorado Recycling                                 | 19    |      | 1567 US Hwy 160 E, Monte Vista, CO 81144              | 719-852-6131<br>719-580-6695                            | RIO GRANDE |
| Plastic bags (clean)   | Safeway, Monte Vista                               | 20    |      | 1200 Second Avenue Monte Vista, CO 81144              | 719-852-5121  | RIO GRANDE |
| Landfill, also provides space for recyclables  | Saguache County Landfill and Recycling Center      | 21    |      | 25125 Kelly Road, Saguache, CO 81149                  | 719-221-1956   719-655-2554<br>bit.ly/saguache-landfill | SAGUACHE   |
| Composting farm waste to organic fertilizer  | Compost Technologies                               | 22    |      | 48414 CR B, Center, CO 81125                          | 719-588-8950<br>719-754-9092                            | SAGUACHE   |
| Composting farm waste to organic fertilizer  | Soil Solutions                                     | 23    |      | 11495 Rd N 108, Hooper, CO 81136                      | 719-588-9728<br>http://soilsolutionscolorado.com/       | SAGUACHE   |

LEGEND

- National Forest Service
- National Park
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Wildlife Refuge
- CO State Land
- Mix - State, County, Municipal
- Natural Area
- Lake, reservoir, river, creek
- Mountain Ranges

ALAMOSA DETAIL





# We're stewards of the land and we have a Plan

Seeing the need for more recycling over the next ten years, SLV Ecosystem Council and Conejos Clean Water have developed a waste diversion plan (see bottom/page at <https://slvec.org/projects/solid-waste-management>). The plan broadens access to recycling through a network of drop-sites to collect household recyclables, and transfer them to a central location.

Where no recycling outlets/services exist, such as in Conejos and Costilla Counties, the full waste stream remains intact, and can become unmanageable or lead to illegal dumping. Without plan management, our “sense of place” in the Valley faces the real possibility of being trashed out.

Every SLV county we encounter is like another unique piece to a beautiful landscape puzzle.

**A powerful sense of place** emerges for the Valley when we combine all of its parts and diversity. Alamosa County brings to mind the Great Sand Dunes, Adams State University, river-walks, and wetlands.

Conejos's small farms, Hispanic and Mormon communities, scenic canyon, and contrasting vistas define its contribution to the region.

Colorado's oldest community of San Luis, with its Spanish-named hamlets, Stations of the Cross, and a complex system of acequia irrigation, mark Costilla's historic role in the early development of the Valley.

The history of silver mining, timber and theatre sets Mineral County apart, and Rio Grande blends its dominance of potato farms with a ski area on the Continental Divide, with seasonal visitation abounding.

Largest of our counties, Saguache maintains a unique mix of hosting the capital of the Valley's agriculture in Center with ranching and hay meadows, 14,000-foot peaks, and hot spring spas.

Our Valley's sense of place that we see now includes its slower pace and lifestyles; ability to satisfy most of our essential needs without having to rely on crowded urban settings; and a vast expanse of public lands with an abundance of rangelands, riparian areas, lakes, forests, wetlands, and mountain highlands giving us a place to reconnect with nature, recharge, and recreate. This positive sense of place could be easily devalued by over-development, or trashed out without our waste diversion plan to keep as waste-free as possible. For most of us, we heed the warnings of “this land is sacred,” and “leave no trace” when using our public lands and special places.

San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council – SLVEC  
P.O. Box 223 / 537 Main Street.  
Alamosa, CO 81101

If you're done with this map, please pass it on, or recycle it!

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER



# Recycling is for ALL of US



# We deserve it!



SLVEC.ORG

SLV Ecosystem Council cares about using resources effectively, and implementing the three R's:

### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

You can **reduce** the size of the waste stream by buying products with minimal packaging; bringing cloth carry bags when shopping; and investing in a non-disposable water bottle.

You can clean and **reuse** appropriate containers (refer to the image below), including plastic bags (Ziploc and garbage).

You can create a **recycle** routine for yourself. You will eventually save time and money.

Shop locally (so your money supports your community), and opt for products that use less (or biodegradable) packaging. We want our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to inherit a cleaner world than the one we now have.

### If you are experienced with recycling — GREAT!

If you've been recycling for years, you can take your practice to the next level by thinking about how to reduce your consumer waste overall. This approach to waste reduction is known as “pre-cycling.”

- Take your reusable coffee mug to work
- Organize or participate in an event that produces zero-waste as a goal
- Bring your own dishes to picnics and potlucks
- Voice your purchasing power by contacting companies whose products you appreciate, and encourage the use of recycled material and biodegradable packaging

## Recycling Basics

### If you are new to recycling

If you've never recycled, take it one step at a time. Introducing a new behavior means expending your energy differently. Remember, trash goes next door — not “away”!

### Find out what can be recycled

Familiarize yourself with the kinds of materials accepted at your local recycling facilities (refer to the map).

### Wash your recyclable items as though they were dishes

Recycling facilities have no use for materials that are unclean. Contaminated food containers cannot be sent to end-markets. Therefore, recyclable items must be washed, not just “rinsed.” For example, clean a can of pet food until there's no longer any food stuck to the metal. (Soaking makes it easier.)

Link your routine to a time period or a room in your household. Commit to collecting and dropping off recyclable items one day a week; or focus on recycling items used only in the kitchen, or in the garage — switch off.

### Begin by recycling one material at a time

At first, try to commit to recycling just one kind of material, such as white paper, aluminum, or glass. Then, recycle a few more household items each month.

### Set up your recycling bins so they're readily at-hand















Place small (or large) receptacles in an area where you will most remember them. Experiment with ways to set bins in rooms where they best fit your routine.

### Share your accomplishments

Let others know what you've accomplished — it feels good to appreciate the material world. Visualize the resources you just recycled, multiplied by your community!

*The less you throw away, the longer your landfill will last.*

## Your guide to plastic symbols and safety

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  <b>1</b> |  <b>2</b> |  <b>3</b> |  <b>4</b> |  <b>5</b> |  <b>6</b> |  <b>7</b> |
| <b>PETE</b><br>POLYETHYLENE TEREPHTHALATE  | <b>HDPE</b><br>HIGH-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE   | <b>V, PVC</b><br>POLYVINYL CHLORIDE  | <b>LDPE</b><br>LOW-DENSITY POLYETHYLENE  | <b>PP</b><br>POLYPROPYLENE   | <b>PS</b><br>POLYSTYRENE   | <b>Other</b>   |
| Soft drink, cooking oil, and water bottles; fruit juice containers.                            | Milk jugs, cleaning agents, shampoo and soap bottles   | Bubble-wrap, candy wrappers, trays for sweets  | Shopping bags, crushed bottles, most plastic wrappings   | Yogurt containers, luggage, toys, car bumpers and trim, furniture                              | Styrofoam beverage cups, and meat trays, toys, CDs, DVDs                                       | Nylon, acrylic, fiberglass, CDs, baby bottles  |
|           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| USE WITH CAUTION   | SAFEST CHOICE  | AVOID  | SAFEST CHOICE  | SAFEST CHOICE  | AVOID  | USE WITH CAUTION   |

## Putting wasted food to good use

SLV Ecosystem Council met with 13 communities in the Valley to prioritize public health issues. A task force was convened and a two-day waste audit took place to analyze what gets dumped into the landfill. What the waste audit revealed is that **32%** of the landfill contains organic matter and **33%** contains recyclable materials.

It's time to take steps to prolong the life of the landfill. You deserve for it to function as efficiently as possible. The price of filling **65%** of it with organic matter and recyclables will ultimately mean losing valuable material that can be reused for future investment.

Our award-winning SLV Regional landfill is built to last, but in order to get our money's worth, it deserves long-term respect.

### What can be done? It's simple.

**First: Think of ways to waste less food.** Avoid throwing away food that's stayed too long in the fridge by labeling it **EAT FIRST**. Share extra food with family and neighbors, a food bank, or the local homeless shelter.

**Second: Toss your organic matter into a compost bin.** Every time you divert organic matter from the landfill into a productive channel such as composting (to create rich soil), you are valuing used material and reaping the long-term benefits of your award-winning landfill.





# Trash haulers do us a huge favor

*Fuera de la vista, fuera de la mente*

Our 2017 study reveals that Valley homes and businesses generate MSW (Municipal Solid Waste) at a rate of 4.6 pounds per person per day. MSW = paper, cardboard, metal cans, glass, plastics, and garbage. This equals **39,300 tons** each year — all destined for the landfill. Thanks to the people who recycle, some **7,200 tons (or 18%)** are diverted from the landfill's eternal grave.

Operators are providing an indispensable service by picking up and hauling over **32,000 tons** of “trash” to the landfill. Our waste audit revealed that:

- **33% of trash was recyclable material**
- **32% was organic (food) material**

This means that way more than half — **65%** — of our trash could have been re-invested for other purposes and kept out of the landfill!



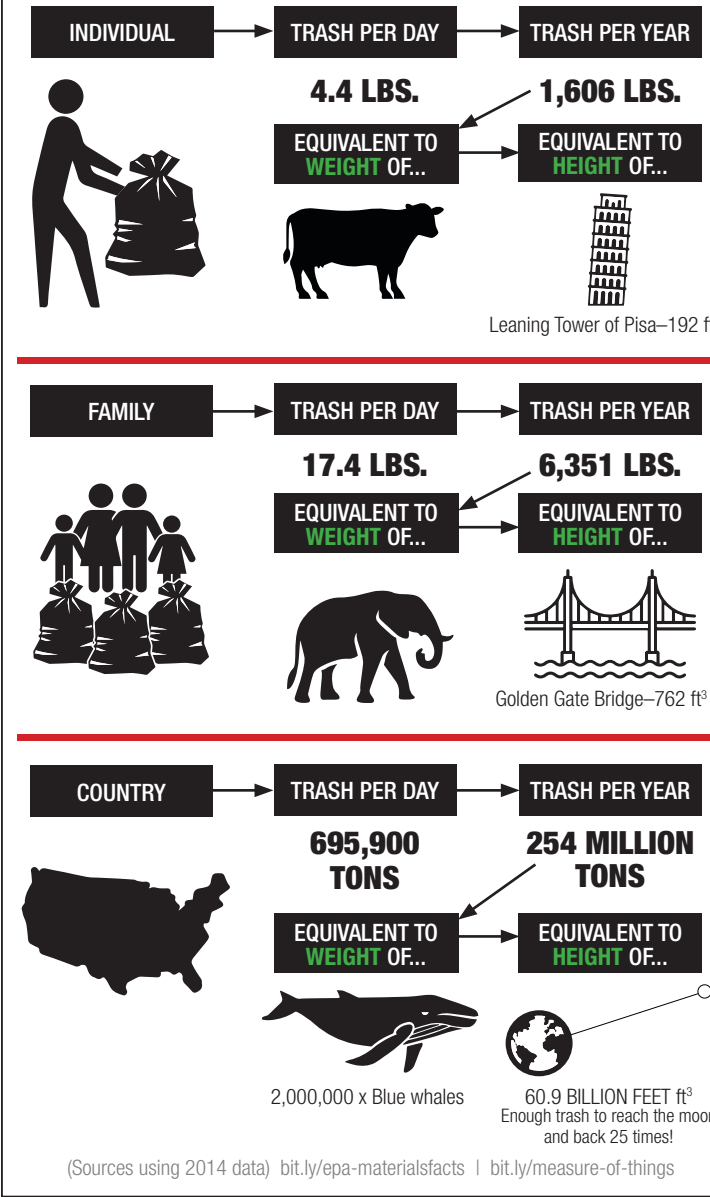
*A large share of trash collection service is provided at curbside, with rates varying from about \$25–\$50 per month. Tipping/disposal fees at the regional landfill are running at about \$14–\$18 per ton — the lowest in the state. A greater deterrent than fees for using the landfill are the hauling and transportation costs, with distances to the regional landfill varying from 10 to over 100 miles, in some instances.*

| Private Haulers<br>Name of Business   | Office Location | Telephone    | Areas/Parts of Areas Served, By County |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|-----------------|--------------|--|----|----|----|----|----|
|   |                 |              | AL                                     | CN | CS | MN | RG | SG |
| American Trash (household/commercial roll-offs)   | Alamosa         | 719-580-6652 | ✓                                      | ✓  |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Conley's Waste Management<br><a href="http://www.conleywastemanagement.com/">http://www.conleywastemanagement.com/</a>                                | Saguache        | 719-655-2833 |  |    |    |    |    | ✓  |
| GT Trash Service  | San Luis        | 719-672-3601 |  |    | ✓  |    |    |    |
| MDS Waste & Recycle<br><a href="http://www.mdswasteandrecycle.com/">http://www.mdswasteandrecycle.com/</a>  | Creede          | 719-658-3060 |  |    |    | ✓  | ✓  |    |
| Reliable Waste Management Services  | Moffat          | 719-849-1417 |  |    |    |    |    | ✓  |
| RMS Utilities (supply dumpsters and pickup)<br><a href="http://rmsutilities.com/">http://rmsutilities.com/</a>  | Alamosa         | 719-589-4263 | ✓                                      | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Romero Household & Construction<br><a href="http://www.romerosslv.com/">http://www.romerosslv.com/</a>  | Alamosa         | 719-298-8318 | ✓                                      |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Silver Mountain Disposal<br><a href="http://www.silvermountaindisposal.com/">http://www.silvermountaindisposal.com/</a>                               | Manassa         | 719-843-5354 | ✓                                      | ✓  |    |    |    |    |
| Story's Trash Disposal (household only)   | Del Norte       | 719-657-2008 |  |    |    |    | ✓  |    |
| Waste Free SLV (recyclables only)   | South Fork      | 719-588-2703 | ✓                                      |    |    | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |
| Waste Management Corp.<br><a href="https://www.cityofmontevista.com/3302/Waste-Management">https://www.cityofmontevista.com/3302/Waste-Management</a> | Monte Vista     | 719-852-5895 | ✓                                      | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  | ✓  |

| Local Government Trash Haulers<br>Government/Department  | Telephone    | Areas Served, by County |    |    |    |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|----|----|----|
|  |              | AL                      | CN | CS | RG |
| City of Alamosa, Public Works<br><a href="http://cityofalamosa.org/departments/public-works/">http://cityofalamosa.org/departments/public-works/</a>                           | 719-589-6631 | ✓                       |    |    |    |
| Town of Antonito, Clerk<br><a href="http://www.townofantonito.com/">http://www.townofantonito.com/</a>   | 719-376-3255 |                         | ✓  |    |    |
| Town of Blanca, Town Hall<br><a href="http://users.gojade.org/~blancaco/">http://users.gojade.org/~blancaco/</a>   | 719-379-4762 |                         |    | ✓  |    |
| City of Monte Vista, Public Works<br><a href="https://www.cityofmontevista.com/2169/Public-Works-Department">https://www.cityofmontevista.com/2169/Public-Works-Department</a> | 719-852-2692 |                         |    |    | ✓  |

# VISUALIZING THE IMPACT OF OUR WASTE

Daily And Yearly Trash Production, Based On Relative Weight And Size



**Local Schools**  
**Connecting the future to the past**  
SLV school districts are already getting students in the habit of recycling. We at SLV Ecosystem Council applaud the dedication of the Creede, Del Norte, Moffat, Monte Vista, Mountain Valley, North Conejos, Sangre de Cristo, and Sargent districts, and we support the hopes of the Alamosa, Centennial, Center, Sanford, Sierra Grande, and South Conejos districts to recycle in the coming years.

# Illegal dumping makes no cent\$

## Real money and time

In October of 2015, Conejos County citizens paid **\$24,582.45** to clean up a dump pile. It was one of nine illegal dumps cleaned up in Costilla and Conejos Counties between 2014 and 2016. Because seven of those cleanups were performed by youth volunteers and other community volunteers — at great risk to themselves. Costilla and Conejos County taxpayers avoided paying **\$222,518** for services. The nine illegal dumps held 50 tons of trash, which, if it had been properly disposed of, would have cost **\$17,414** in tipping/disposal fees, or 8% of overall cleanup costs. (Henceforth youth volunteers won't be allowed to clean up illegal dumps.)

## Trash attracts trash

Can Valley residents afford to clean up illegal dump sites year after year? Can we afford to lose stewardship credibility by offending community members and visitors who come to the SLV to enjoy pristine beauty and wildlife, but find illegal dumps?

## Threatened groundwater

After a heavy rain, runoff carries chemicals and bacteria into a water body or towards ditches and acequias. The contaminated water can seep into the groundwater.

## What about burning tires/plastic? This is a very bad idea.

The smoke from burning these materials can negatively affect breathing and hormone systems. The smoke contains many harsh toxic substances, including carbon monoxide; benzene (a cancer-causing agent), toluene, and nitrogen oxides.

As of early Summer of 2018, little infrastructure exists to address the problem. We need a reporting system and law enforcement, including fines, to hold violators accountable and create a community atmosphere of zero tolerance for illegal dumping. We invite you to share your ideas with us:

## How we can we respect our sense of place?



Illegal dump in Conejos County. Photo by Andrew Carlo Rascon.

# Can we learn from other recycling systems?

*Sí se puede! (Yes, you can!)*

**The MRF Revolution:** Recycling systems operate within the much broader context of a worldwide industry. A Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) uses both labor-intensive sorting and complex machinery to separate materials by size, weight, and magnets, making it possible for mixed-stream recyclables to be harvested as source-separated commodities with end-market value. Source separated loads have value; mixed loads are not worth much. **In Colorado there are five MRFs — in Boulder, Denver, Fort Collins, Fremont County, and Eagle County.**

**SLV's Market Position:** In the SLV, distance from end-markets and a limited supply of recyclables does not support a MRF, which can cost millions of dollars. Source-separated collection and transfer offered at Alamosa's Rickey Recycling Center (RRC) has the benefit of ensuring less contamination and best market value.

**Boulder County Recycling Center** is a recycling showcase. Features include a “one-stop drop” trash and recycling center, recycling rebates, hazardous materials management, curbside compost collections, and rail shipment to end-markets. Policies include hauler licensing and recycling mandates.

**“The Drop”** in the **Town of Fraser** is a pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) trash and recycling drop-site for permanent residents and visitors. Pre-paid trash bags create incentive to recycle (more bags cost more money).

**Pitkin County** is considering a new waste and recycling ordinance to bring PAYT to unincorporated areas. It will also require residences, multi-family units, and commercial generators to recycle internally and provide recycling to their guests and customers (a new requirement for Colorado).

Public officials in the **Town of Carbondale** are evaluating a move from open-hauler collection to a single-hauler contract to include recycling and organics.

**Lake County Landfill and Recycling Center** provides for an amazing diversity of items in a place with long winters. The county levies \$1,000 fines for illegal dumping or misuse of drop-sites.

**City of Loveland Recycling Center** offer PAYT at curbside or direct-drop to the recycling center. Special curbside pickup for large items like sofas, refrigerators, and mattresses can be arranged with 24-hour notice.

**Chaffee County:** Chaffee County uses the Angel of Shavano recycling firm. Recycling locations are located in Salida, Buena Vista, and Poncha Springs. Recycling receives some support from a per-capita charge.

# Good planets are hard to find

**There is no “away” in “throw away.”**

In June of 2015, you used a plastic bottle once for ten minutes and threw it away. Remember? Unlikely. But if the bottle wasn't recycled (converted into a useful material), it's causing harm.

Either it's in a landfill, where its plastic has reacted with rainwater to produce leachate, which can seep into groundwater and contaminate it.

Or it's at sea, swirling within one of five ocean-wide gyres and being confused for food by marine life. (For example, hundreds of thousands of Laysan Albatross chicks have died in the Pacific Ocean after filling their stomachs with bottle caps mistaken for food.)

One of the five gyres, popularly known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP), was discovered off the coast of Hawai'i in 1997. As of the Spring of 2018, it spans 1.6 million square kilometers — a little more than 76 times the size of the San Luis Valley — and displays some 1.8 trillion pieces of flotsam. Charles Moore, the sailor who discovered it, has observed that “Throwaway plastics take a lot of space and don't biodegrade. Only we humans make waste that nature can't digest.”

So: Try to “pre-cycle.” Buy products with minimal packaging. Buy in bulk. And, instead of buying bottled water, fill a non-disposable water bottle with tap water.

As the sign north of Hooper, off the north-bound lane of Highway 17 reminds us: **GOOD PLANETS ARE HARD TO FIND.**

(Charles Moore website: [www.captain-charles-moore.org](http://www.captain-charles-moore.org))



Photo courtesy of Algalita Marine Research and Education.