



New Mexico SB 46

Sponsored by Senator Pete Campos

Commissioning a Statewide Waste Characterization Study

Providing \$130,000 of funding for a "boots on the ground" audit of New Mexico's municipal solid waste to learn how much organic waste (food scraps and green waste (like yard trimmings, leaves, etc.) we have in the solid waste stream, and to learn the overall composition of our trash.

Key Points of SB 46

- This study, including the necessary field work, provides a direct sampling of waste at landfills and transfer stations across New Mexico.
- Organic Waste Assessment: Quantifying food waste, yard waste, and paper products that are currently being landfilled.
- Pollution Analysis: Determining the environmental impact of current disposal methods.
- Economic Impacts: Analyzing the economic potential of diverting waste through composting or recycling, compared to the cost of landfilling.

Why This Study Matters

- Reducing Landfill Pollution: Organic waste in landfills produces methane and leachate, leading to contamination of soil and water, and air pollution.
- Data from the study will help the [New Mexico Environment Department](#) design better, more efficient waste management solutions.
- Economic Opportunity: Identifying valuable materials in the waste stream spurs creation of local recycling and composting businesses.
- Supports New Mexico's overall goals for improving sustainability and protecting public health.

Expected Outcomes

- A comprehensive, baseline report detailing the composition of New Mexico's waste.
- Actionable recommendations on waste reduction and diversion policies.
- Information to help local governments reduce landfill fees and environmental liabilities.

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