



NEWS RELEASE

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**Issued by Bernalillo County
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GRANT TO HELP BUSINESSES BECOME MORE ENVIRONMENTAL

The Bernalillo County Office of Environmental Health (BCOEH) was awarded a \$300,000 two-year Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The purpose of the project, entitled “Best Management Practices to Reduce Toxic Exposures for Bernalillo County Residents”, is to reduce South Valley residents’ exposures to pollutants by promoting improved business operating practices. In particular, the project focuses on the operations of auto junk yards and gasoline stations to reduce benzene and metal pollutants.

“Through this grant, we hope to build a collaborative effort among regulatory agencies, industry, and the South Valley community to reduce water and air pollution with the aim of protecting South Valley residents’ health. Businesses choosing to participate in the program will benefit by protecting neighbors, customers and employees from harmful pollutants,” says Commissioner Teresa L. Cordova, PhD. Environmental Health staff is contacting South Valley businesses to participate in the project.

A meeting with automobile recycling business owners will be held on December 19, 2007 at Mountain View Community Center at 11:00 am. Interested business owners can contact George Schroeder Environmental Health Manager, at 314-0326 for more information.

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