



AN INNOVATIVE CURBSIDE COLLECTION TRAILER

Grand Junction Recycling Trailer

Location Served: Mesa County

OEC Grant Funds: \$80,000

Population Served: 95,000

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Key Feature: A low-cost flexible recycling trailer that can be used for curbside, drop off or both simultaneously

A low-cost (\$3,000 to \$7,000) recycling trailer has been developed by the Energy Office in Grand Junction. The trailer, designed to be towed by a pickup truck, has a capacity of 7,500 pounds, or 22 cubic yards.

The trailer utilizes heavy duty polyethylene bags available locally at \$20 to \$65 each. The oversized bags, with a capacity of 2,000 pounds, are loaded from ground-level by using a battery-operated hoist built into the trailer.

When positioned in the trailer, the bags form a flexible multi-sectional curbside collection vehicle. As opposed to standard curbside vehicles, there is no need to return to the processing center when one or two commodities fill their allotted space.



As the bags are filled, they can be maneuvered about the trailer until the total capacity of the pickup truck (or other hauling vehicle) and the trailer are reached.

The new multi-use recycling trailer allows drop sites along a curbside collection route to be serviced in the same trip. Using ordinary steel posts, the bags can create a drop site anywhere. Most standard drop sites require specialized equipment such as a forklift to load containers.

According to Zita Lynn of the Grand Junction Energy Office, placing these trailers at unstaffed sites resulted in high contamination levels that rendered the material worthless. This trend continued despite extensive education efforts and signage. The solution to this problem entailed a scheduled stop for a number of hours one day a week at the designated locations.



The versatile Grand Junction recycling trailer can also be utilized to pick up curb side recyclables between stops to service drop off locations.