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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NDEP OFFICIAL TO VISIT ELKO TO DISCUSS RURAL DUMPING**

ELKO – A Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) official will be in Elko Friday to meet with Elko Citizens Against Illegal Dumping to discuss the agency’s grants program and other ways of curbing illegal dumping in rural areas.

Ed Glick, supervisor of NDEP’s Solid Waste Branch, plans to tell the group that the agency will begin accepting grant proposals in July, and he will invite interested parties to apply.

NDEP announced in March that it will award some \$150,000 in grants to municipalities, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations for projects that enhance solid waste management systems and recycling projects, particularly in rural areas. A committee of state officials will evaluate the applications and award the grants.

The announcement followed the State Environmental Commission’s approval of regulations to implement the grants program, pursuant to the passage of Senate Bill 396 in the 2005 legislative session.

“Illegal dumping in rural areas has increased substantially in the last few years,” said Assemblyman John Carpenter, a leader in the effort to stop rural dumping. “Some citizens have little or no concern for our environment. I believe this growing epidemic must be attacked on two fronts: one with greater enforcement and stiffer penalties, and most importantly with education. Communities that are awarded grants from NDEP, made possible with the passage of Senate Bill 396, will be in a better position to prevent this blight on our landscape.”

NDEP officials are particularly excited about the new opportunities to work with rural communities such as Elko to curtail the dumping, and they say the grants are an excellent means to help in the fight.

“In the past, NDEP has utilized contract agreements to assist public and private entities in conserving natural resources and reducing the amount of waste generated in Nevada,” said Eric Noack, chief of NDEP’s Bureau of Waste Management. “Grants, however, are a much better way to distribute the funds, because of the wide variety of projects involved.”

(more)

## Grants

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The new regulations establish criteria for determining eligibility, administration and organization of the solid waste grants program. The funding level will be approximately \$150,000 annually, the same amount that was available for the pre-existing recycling contracts program. The source of the funding is the Solid Waste Management Account that receives a one-dollar-per-tire retail surcharge assessed on the sale of all new tires in Nevada.

Interested parties may call Ed Glick at (775) 687-9467 to obtain a grant application or to request more information on the grants program. Information of the state's solid waste management program is available on NDEP's website at [www.ndep.nv.gov/bwm/solid.htm](http://www.ndep.nv.gov/bwm/solid.htm).

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