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## **ADEQ Director Owens Announces \$370,386 in Community Recycling Grants in Maricopa County**

PHOENIX (July 11, 2008) –Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Director Steve Owens announced today that ADEQ is awarding \$370,386 to fund recycling programs in Maricopa County.

The county itself will receive \$188,736 to provide recycling to rural and unincorporated areas through supervised residential dropoff of household hazardous waste and 11 other recyclable materials including aluminum, plastics, metals, cardboard and paper at county transfer stations. The funds will be used to purchase containers and compactors at four stations in Aguila, Cave Creek, New River and Rainbow Valley.

In addition, the City of Mesa will receive \$61,000 to fund “Recycling for the Masses,” a districtwide program which will offer comprehensive recycling within Mesa’s public schools. The grant also will provide recycling at Hohokam Stadium, the spring-training home of the Chicago Cubs. Mesa also will improve the signage at multifamily and dropoff locations. The funds will be used to purchase recycle barrels, containers, signage, promotional materials and mailers.

Also, the Town of Fountain Hills will receive \$19,000 for a household hazardous waste collection event for the town and its nearby communities. The funds will be used to hire a contractor to conduct the event. The town has grown to about 25,000 residents and has never held a household hazardous waste event.

In addition, the City of Tempe will receive \$59,800 to create a 24-foot recycling exhibition trailer with interactive videos, displays and educational materials to promote recycling. The trailer will be present at the 128 major outdoor events the city sponsors, with a total estimated audience of 650,000 people. The City of Tempe has a goal of increasing recycling collection by 20 percent through the new outreach program.

Maricopa County also will receive \$41,550 to inform residents of the county’s rural and unincorporated areas about recycling, waste reduction and illegal dumping. Advertisements, brochures, and direct mailings will notify residents about recycling at four of the county’s solid-waste transfer stations and encourage participation of residents.

“Recycling is one of our most effective tools to protect our environment,” Director Owens said. “We are glad to be supporting efforts to increase recycling in both the urban and rural parts of Maricopa County.”

## Maricopa Recycling Grants

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These grants are funded by ADEQ's Waste Reduction Assistance program, which is for projects devoted to waste reduction, recycling and composting. WRA projects may include new recycling collections, household hazardous waste collections, electronics recycling programs, mulching or composting operations, material processing operations and manufacturing facilities that use recycled material as feedstock.