

2019 BALING TWINE RECYCLING ACROSS COLORADO

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Waste-Not Recycling has a baling twine recycling program that is growing across the state of Colorado. This program provides a very useful and practical rural service that brings community members together to protect wildlife habitat, divert landfill waste and keep Colorado beautiful! There are millions of pounds of this plastic twine annually discarded into landfills or left in the environment across Colorado. It is all 100% recyclable. In 2018 over 77,000 pounds of the polypropylene twine was collected, sorted and transported to Waste-Not Recycling in Johnstown. Current collection sites are listed on our website:

TWINERECYCLING.COM

So far the program has been supported by various state and local organizations. Funding is used to establish collections sites, purchase containers, signage, advertising, educational materials, transport of collected twine and other supplies. In 2017 the program was awarded an End Market Development grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE) to purchase equipment that processes the twine into pellets. The pellets are used as raw material for plastics manufacturing of items such as buckets and storage containers. Processing the twine in Colorado reduces handling and transportation costs significantly.

The need for on-going sorting of the twine is the enduring and important step. In order to be processed, the twine must have 5% or less contamination. So any trash, hay chunks and manure need to be removed. Waste-Not Recycling is very committed to supporting this program as conservation for the environment. They offer the collection and sorting as a fund raising opportunity for youth groups such as FFA and 4-H by paying \$0.10/ pound for delivered twine. The intention is to create state-wide twine recycling that can provide the structure for expanded recycling of additional agricultural plastics in the future. So far, the participating youth groups are very happy to raise money with this community service. They interact with landowners and business owners, do real work outside, learn more about the environment and recycling and feel proud to be making a valuable contribution to their communities.



Containers are set up at local feed stores, dairies, ranches or feed lots. The youth group then sorts and bundles the collected twine, storing it in Super Sacks at the local landfill or other location that can provide outdoor storage. Then the twine is transported to Johnstown for processing. This transport is done differently according to availability. Sometimes a few sacks are brought in at a time and sometimes a group saves enough for a semi-load. Local youth groups and local conservation districts coordinate with Waste-Not for payment so that the youth groups are paid as soon as the twine is sorted and stored.