

Hope is going green!

Not just the green and gold colors of the school, but green as in environmentally conscious! The students and faculty of Hope Christian School already know it is their responsibility to be good stewards of the earth God gave them to inhabit. And soon they will be walking out their faith in a new Recycling Program being implemented next month on all three campuses.

It just so happens that November is New Mexico Recycling Awareness Month. Which is perfect timing, since various groups around the Hope campus have been carrying out their own recycling efforts for quite some time, but Hope is getting ready to roll out a full-fledged, campus-wide, recycling program effective November 2, 2009.

This new Recycling program will entail the replacement of two of the large trash dumpsters - one each at the Mid-School and High School Campuses, by Recycling dumpsters; and the addition of a smaller recycling dumpster on the Elementary campus. Under the Recycling program offered by Waste Management of NM, Hope will be implementing what is called "single stream" recycling - which allows students and teachers to recycle paper, plastic, and aluminum products in a single container, without the need for separating the items. At this time, glass recycling is not being offered. [Click here for a full list of acceptable items.](#)

The plan is to co-locate recycling bins near trash cans throughout campus (in lunchrooms, hallways, offices, and classrooms), to make it easy for students and staff to recycle appropriate items. Although "nothing that touches food" will be eligible for recycling, there will still be a large quantity of plastic water bottles and flattened cardboard boxes that will emanate from the cafeterias throughout campus.

Hope is also planning on implementing various recycling education activities and incentives around campus to help jump-start the program. Besides integrating recycling education into the various curricula, each campus will handle the program on an age-appropriate level. On the Elementary campus, teachers will handle it as a class project, assigning students to take the in-class recycling containers to the Recycling bins / dumpsters. The Mid School is planning a competition between the grades, and Student Council members will be responsible for emptying the classroom and hallway containers into the Recycling dumpsters. At the High School, teachers and office staff will empty the classroom containers into the hall containers, and the after hours cleaning company will handle the dumping of hallway containers into the large Recycling Dumpster.

God's command that humans have dominion over all created things has too often been used as an excuse to plunder the earth. While it is true that many Christians have not responded to God's call to serve the creation, the Bible's message is very clear: humanity must keep the creation just as God keeps us. [Click here for more scriptural references to recycling and our responsibility for stewardship of God's earth.](#)