



OPERATION SAVE THE BEARS

What is Operation Save the Bears?

Operation Save the Bears is an initiative by Los Alamos County Environmental Services to deploy bear-resistant dumpsters and roll carts for all Los Alamos County businesses and residential households. In FY22, the County Council allocated \$2.4 million to implement the project. Existing trash dumpsters and roll carts will be collected and repurposed as recycle dumpsters/roll carts or salvaged depending on the condition of the dumpster.



Why Was it Created?

Operation Save the Bears intends to protect Los Alamos citizens, as well as bears living in the surrounding environs by reducing the number of human/bear encounters. Bears are extremely intelligent. Traditional dumpsters/roll carts are an easy food source and once bears consume human food, they become habituated and will return to the original food source year after year. Additionally, this can be a learned behavior, with mothers teaching their cubs. Bears that lose their natural fear of humans and human activity are more likely to become problem



bears and be involved in a negative human-bear encounter. In the past, problematic bears are relocated once or twice and then euthanized.

The bear-resistant dumpsters/roll carts prevent bears and other wildlife from rummaging through trash in search of food. Replacing every traditional dumpster/roll cart in the County with a bear-resistant dumpster/roll cart will secure this food source and encourage bears to search for food in the wilderness and not in residential and business neighborhoods. Consequently, this behavior will reduce the number of human and bear encounters within the community.

Who is it For?

Operation Save the Bears is for all Los Alamos County residents and businesses. It also aims to protect the bears and other wildlife in the surrounding environment.



Where Will Operation Save the Bears be Deployed?

This project will be deployed in both White Rock and Los Alamos and will encompass collecting and replacing all 260 trash dumpsters and 7,200 trash roll carts.

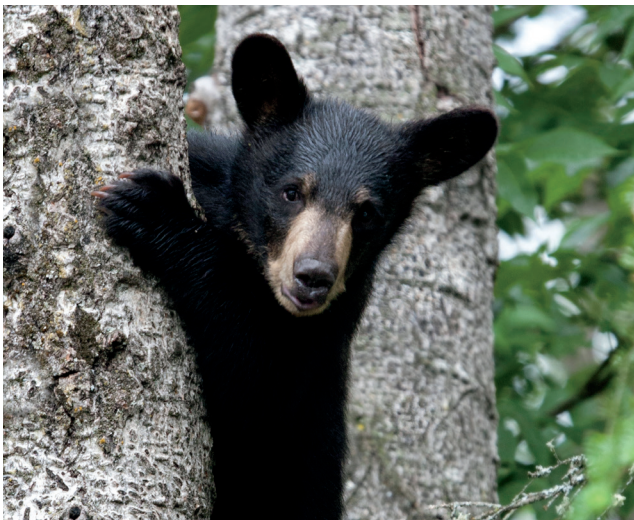
When Will it be Implemented?

Environmental Services plans on rolling out **Operation Save the Bears** as quickly as possible and will begin replacing existing dumpsters/roll carts with bear-resistant dumpsters/roll carts in June 2022 and continue through June 2023.

How Can I Participate in Operation Save the Bears?

It is not necessary to register. Environmental Services will distribute your bear-resistant dumpster/roll cart to you sometime between June 2022 and June 2023.

Once you've received your dumpster/roll cart, bag all trash and fully close the bear dumpster/roll cart upon disposal. Remember, a fed bear is a dead bear. Please, do not feed the bears and remember to remove or secure other food sources (e.g., fruit trees) or items (e.g., bird feeders) that may attract bears to your yard.



How do I Operate the New Bear Resistant Dumpster?

Your new bear resistant dumpster, is essentially the same with the exception of the operation of the lid lock. A simple lift of the lock, as shown below, is all it takes to unlock the lid. To close and lock the lid, just press the lid down firmly and it will lock.

HOW TO UNLOCK

**INSERT HAND UNDER LATCH GUARD,
PULL UP ON LATCH**



There is no need to unlock the lid on collection day. The lid is designed to unlock automatically when tipped by our equipment.

For additional information contact solidwaste@lacnm.us or call 505.662.8163 or visit the Environmental Services website at <https://lacnm.com/save-the-bears>

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