

2011 TEEA Winner Pollution Prevention, U.S. Army, Fort Bliss Directorate of Public Works

Narrator:

When Lieutenant Charles Worth Nelson walks through the Fort Bliss motor pool, he's inspecting more than just the vehicles.

Lt. Charles Worth Nelson, Fort Bliss:

We keep our recycling outside as well as each office next to his desk so they can't have an excuse not to recycle.

Narrator:

Fort Bliss had to look for far reaching and innovative ways to meet a 50 percent waste reduction target.

Soldier One:

Right here we have our metal and sustainability operations.

Narrator:

The ambitious recycling program catches everything from old metal drums and oily rags to spent fire extinguishers.

Soldier Two:

We cut the metal and make them inoperable. And then we send them to the metal recycler.

Narrator:

The soldiers positioned 5,500 collection bins around Fort Bliss. The convenience paid off. To date, they've recycled nearly 440,000 tons.

Col. Leonard Wells, Deputy Garrison Commander:

The corner stone of that is our single stream recycling, which allows us to take our paper, our plastics and aluminum and really put it all in one bin.

Al Riera, Director, Fort Bliss Department of Public Works:

If you have a program where units have to sort their materials, it's a lot more difficult to have people contribute and participate in the program.

Narrator:

Some material never leaves the base, because Fort Bliss finds new creative uses. Discarded electronics are used to make mock bombs at the Fort Bliss Training Center. Old furniture is also put to use in training exercises and every chair in this classroom was headed to the landfill before being diverted here.

Lt. Charles Worth Nelson:

We try to touch every area on the installation and allow easily and accessible to everybody so that anyone has an opportunity to recycle and support the environment.

Narrator:

While the men and women at Fort Bliss are preparing to defend our nation's freedom they are also protecting El Paso's environment.