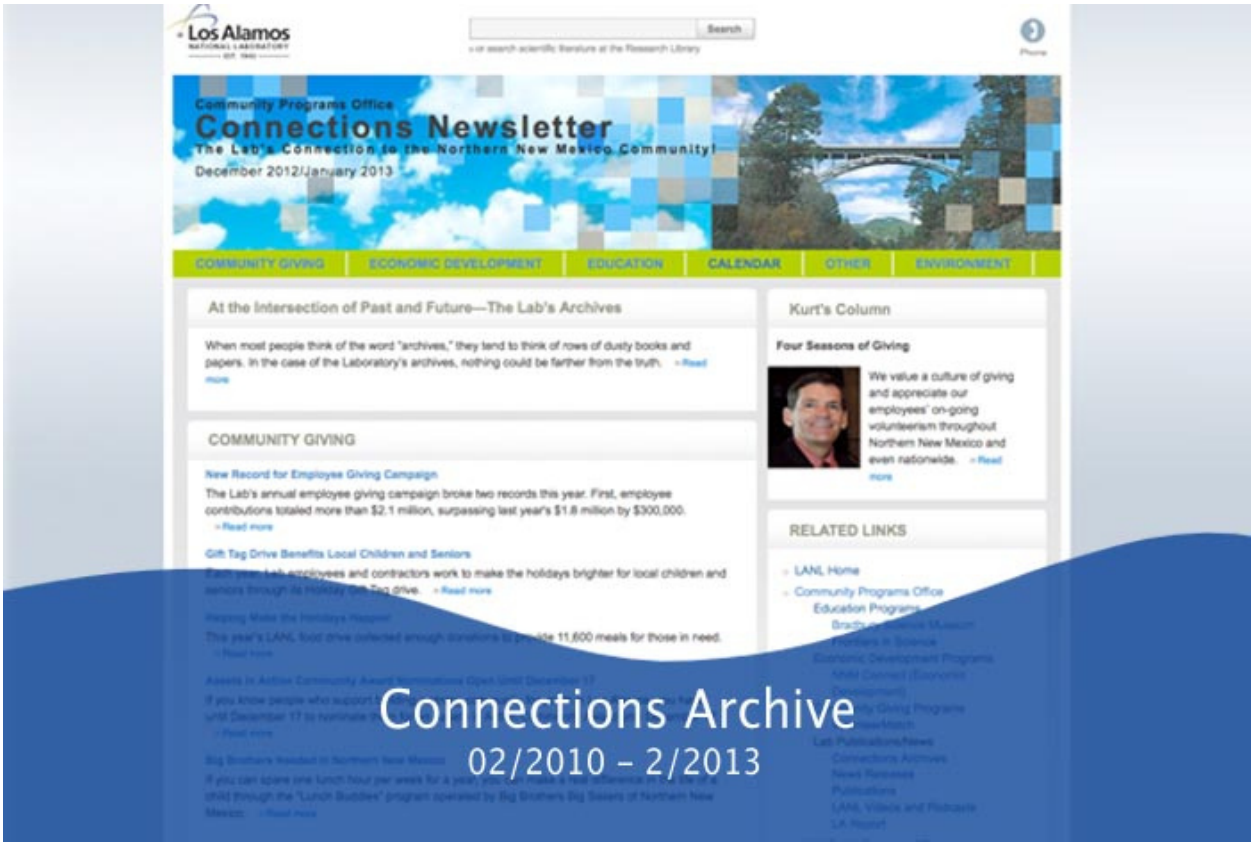
Lab employees don’t treat their trash like garbage

January 1, 2013



Last year, the Lab recycled 47 percent of its solid, non-hazardous waste (which translates to about 1,275 metric tons of paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans) by placing it in the recycling containers that dot the Laboratory landscape. The Lab’s goal is to increase that amount by three percent, to a total of 50 percent, by 2015.

In addition, the Lab was able to recycle 93 percent of its construction and demolition waste (almost 7,000 tons of debris and scrap materials) and reused more than 5,000 of the 20,188 cubic yards of clean soil from onsite construction and demolition activities.

The Lab’s recycle rate of 47 percent compares favorably with the current national rate of 34 percent, but it continues to work to reduce the amount of waste for disposal. Beginning last year, the Lab began to recycle a variety of batteries, including nickel cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium, silver oxide, mercury button cell, lead acid, and lithium ion for laptops and cell phones.