

## **Interview with the Native Village of St. Mary's, Yupiit of Andreafski, about their recycling program - March 2005**

Contact: Serena Alstrom, Yupiit of Andreafski 438-2329

### **What types of materials do they recycle?**

Aluminum can's, household batteries and car batteries and used oil.

### **How do they ship them out (what company)?**

The cans are shipped out with Northern Air Cargo through ALPAR. The batteries are ship to Fairbanks or in the winter time we send it with Northern Air Cargo.



Aerial View of St. Mary's

### **How did they first arrange shipping their recyclables?**

We worked with ALPAR's Flying Can's program with Northern Air Cargo. Northern Air Cargo also helps us with the batteries also.

### **Where to they ship to?**

Anchorage and or Fairbanks.

### **How long has their program been going?**

We have been recycling can's since 1994 and the batteries and used oil since 1998.

### **Do they have recycling bins in town or houses?**

The City of St. Mary's and other agencies work together to have bins and drop off area's around town.

### **How often do they ship out recyclables?**

The aluminum can's are usually shipped out once a month and the batteries and used oil once a year, sometimes twice.



Can crusher and can drop-off (green ALPAR bag) in office

### **How have they gotten the community to recycle?**

We started out with teaching the youth the importance of recycling, and now the kids challenge the whole community and so far the people have responded well. We challenged the community and told them there were prizes- the first prize was a round trip ticket to Hawaii! The whole challenge took 6 months.

### **How do they ship their recyclables?**

We use ALPAR bags.

### **Do they crush their cans?**

Some do and some don't. We are happy though that the



Community drop-off area for recyclables

community helps recycle. We recently handed out can crushers to households and schools throughout town.

**Have they had any problems with their program? If so, how did they fix them?**

No major problems, the only problem we consider is that the community wants more recycling available like plastics and paper.

**What advice would they give to other Villages trying to start recycling programs?**

We are in talks to start working with other Villages to help each other out and get them involved. Give us a call! We can tell you more about how we got our program started! Contact Serena at **438-2329**.

