The “Green Movement” has been sweeping the country, and the overflowing piles of paper, cardboard and plastic are certainly proof that Holyoke is doing its part to make northeast Colorado a little “greener.”

“Recycling is making a difference,” said city superintendent Mark Brown. “Every year it’s reducing more and more.”

The City of Holyoke will send an estimated total of 1,302.79 tons of trash to the landfill in 2011. This is down approximately 25 tons from the 1,328 tons in 2010, which was down 20 tons from the total in 2009.

This year’s total is under 2003’s trash total by a whopping 300 tons!

**Paper recyclables seem to always fill up Holyoke’s big blue recycling bin very quickly, which isn’t surprising since Holyoke has recycled an amazing 15.66 tons of paper since last November. —Enterprise photo**

Brown said recycling is affecting these numbers in addition to the environmentally-friendly packaging used in the last few years. Either way, less and less waste is being produced, he said.

Holyoke introduced a new recycling bin in October of last year. The large blue container, parked northwest of the city offices, takes aluminum and tin cans, #1 and #2 plastic, newspaper, magazines and office paper.

It does not take plastic bags, cardboard or styrofoam.

From November 2010 to September 2011, Holyoke recycled 15.66 tons of paper, 2.25 tons of plastic, 1.02 tons of tin and 0.31 tons of aluminum for nearly 20 tons of recyclable materials in less than a year!

Tammie Timm of Holyoke Recycles and former HHS students Marci Vasa and Heather Duester worked with Haxtun students and teacher Alan Nall to get the recycling bin with a grant funded by Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Fund.

Haxtun also has a bin, with one more as an extra when one of the containers needs to be emptied. U.S. Recycling in Ogallala, Neb. picks up the bins and disposes of the recyclable materials.

“It seems like they fill up faster and faster,” said Brown, who is in charge of making the call when the Holyoke bin is full. The two most popular materials, paper and plastic, fill up at about the same rate.

“Overall it’s been really good,” added Brown, noting people are fairly good about putting the correct materials in the appropriate slots.

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