Recycling in the Heart of Alabama

Birmingham Recycling and Recovery



Leigh Shaffer Alabama Recycling Coalition Expo August 24, 2023

Birmingham Recycling is a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

- Centralized location where recyclable materials are dumped, separated, baled and sent to market
- MRF or RPC Over 30 in Alabama
- Commercial and residential recycling processor



Single-Stream vs. Push and Bale

- BRR has two sides to the operation
 - Single Stream mixed residential recycling is sorted using a combination of processing equipment and manual labor
 - Push and Bale presorted materials are pushed onto in ground baler conveyor and baled for shipment to regional markets

Single Stream Residential Recycling

- Comprised of paper, cardboard, aluminum and steel cans, plastics #1 & #2
- Contamination and trash
- Curbside or centralized collection
- Approximately 20 municipalities
- Commercial locations
- Public drop off bins

Community Drop-Off Bins at BRR

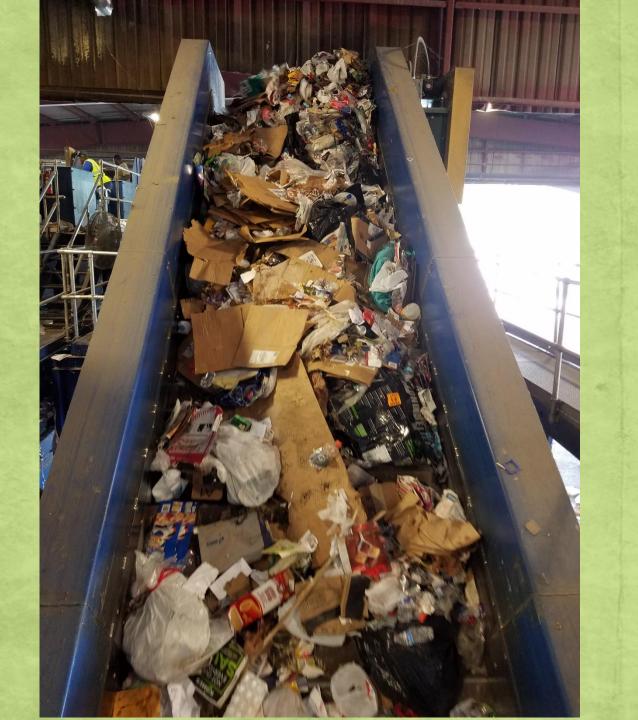


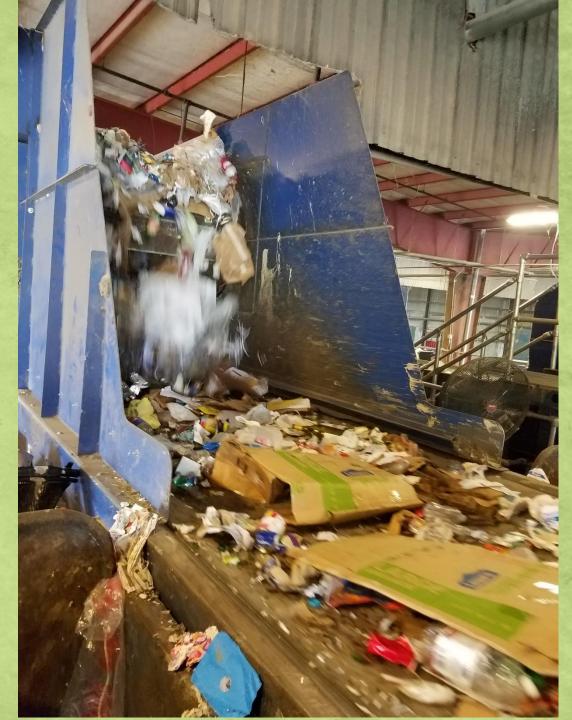






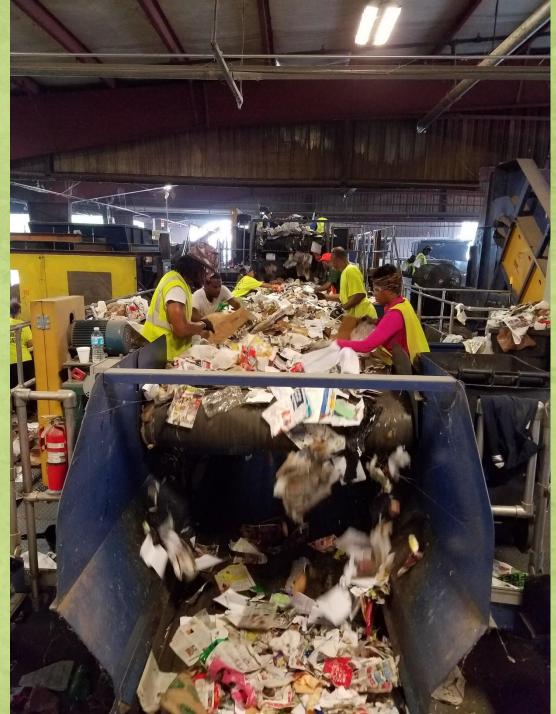
































Commercial Recycling

- Comprised of source separated cardboard (OCC), sorted office paper (SOP), sorted white ledger (SWL) & post office paper (POW)
- Cardboard bale route, box truck and trailers
- Wal-Mart mixed recycle bales
- Reprocess loads
- Partner with local haulers, businesses and municipalities who deliver material

















Cost of Doing Business

- Single stream tipping fee
- Loads are graded and any waste portion is charged back to include disposal fees.
- Some commodities earn a rebate OCC, SOP, some plastics. Rebate amount is based on industry-set monthly prices and volume of material.

Contamination (non-recyclable at BRR)

- Garden hoses
- Electronics
- Cables or cords
- Plastic bags
- Rope and string
- Ratchet straps
- Vacuum hoses

- Vacuum cleaners
 Used HVAC filters
- Textiles
- Plastic Bags
- Wire hangers
- Glass
- Rubber balls
- Yard waste

- Foam products
- Bulky plastic items (coolers, toys)
- Scrap metal
- Household garbage
- Plastics #3-7

Helpful Tips

- Know what to throw
- Empty, clean, and dry
- Caps and lids are OK
- Labels and window envelopes are OK

- No wax cartons
- Pizza boxes? yes and no
- Place recyclables loose in bin (NO PLASTIC BAGS!)

Regional Recycling Resource

- The residential recycling delivered to BRR comes from ~20 Municipalities.
- Many residents use our public drop off bins if they do not have curbside service.
- Commercial customers are serviced either by local haulers, BRR fleet, or through direct delivery.

Outbound Loads

 All recycled materials are baled and shipped to regional mills and businesses that need recycled feedstock as part of their product.

Other Services offered by BRR

- Baler Sales and Service
- Consulting
- Education and Outreach

Thank You!

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