



What is a MRF?

MRF (pronounced "MURF") stands for Material Recovery Facility. MRFs were pioneered by Peter Karter, a nuclear engineer. When residents in his Connecticut town began recycling efforts for glass and other materials, Karter saw this as a business opportunity. He developed an automated system to sort recyclables, and founded Resource Recovery Systems, Inc. in 1974, one of the first MRFs in the U.S.[i]



Boulder County Recycling Center

Modern day MRFs employ industrial strength sorting machines, and with the help of humans, sort common recyclable materials into bales which are sold as raw materials to manufacturers. There are six permitted MRFs in Nebraska. Firstar Fiber in Omaha and Recycling Enterprises of Nebraska are two of the largest. Check out this [guided tour](#) of a MRF owned by ReCommunity in Charlotte, North Carolina.

What Can You Do?

When using a single-stream recycling system, be sure to find out what materials are and are not accepted at your local MRF and recycle accordingly. For example, most MRFs cannot accept plastic bags of any kind because they clog equipment, causing costly repairs. Attend a tour of your local MRF so you can understand the recycling process for materials coming from your home, business and community. It's a fascinating experience!

Policy

As more municipalities, institutions and businesses adopt Zero Waste policies, they need trained personnel to properly manage materials and decrease financial and environmental risks. WasteCap Nebraska supports the development of a national recycling certification program.

[i] http://articles.courant.com/2010-05-30/features/hc-exlife-0530-20100530_1_peter-karter-nuclear-power-plants-nuclear-waste

Visit www.wastecapne.org for all your recycling needs.



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