



MRFs VS Landfills

Not all Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) are equal, but they all have one thing in common. They create raw materials out of recyclables while saving space in landfills. Comparing the benefits of MRFs and landfills is a great way to begin critically looking at our solid waste issues.

Landfills Are Expensive

Landfills are expensive to site, build and maintain. They require environmental monitoring long after they are closed to ensure that they are not contaminating the surrounding environment. MRFs, on the other hand, generate revenue off of baled recyclables which are sold as raw materials to manufacturers. MRFs *can* be a risky investment if a community is not committed to recycling. Communities with MRFs engage in a symbiotic relationship to reach high rates of recycling and landfill diversion.



Baled paper from a MRF, ready to be sold.

MRFs Solve Problems

Consider the implications of landfills and MRFs to our natural resources. MRFs assemble our waste into bulk raw material that can be made into new products. Landfill material sits for decades and mixing with water and toxic materials to create leachate and gases that can harm our air and water quality.



Heavy machinery leveling out landfill waste.

What You Can Do

Support recycling and composting initiatives and policies in your community. Visit the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's [website](#) and click on the "Land & Waste" tab to learn about existing public policy.

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



WasteCap Nebraska
402-436-2384
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