

June 2015 EcoFacts



Clean and Dirty MRFs

Last week's eco-fact explained the history and layout of a modern day MRF. Access all of our past eco-facts on our [archives page](#).

There are two basic types of MRFs: dirty and clean. Clean MRFs only process recyclables, while dirty MRFs accept a combined stream of trash and recyclables. In the past, many dirty MRFs failed, but some entrepreneurs are hopeful that new technology will make dirty MRFs more viable.

Benefits of dirty MRFs are that they only require one hauling service, one kind of receptacle and no education of end-users. The disadvantages are that many high-value items like office paper become contaminated and thus are not reprocessed into their highest and best use. More trees will need to be harvested to match the value the office paper once had. Even though all the waste is captured in a dirty MRF, far more materials will be landfilled. The Zero Waste hierarchy starts with reduce (consumption), then reuse, recycle, and finally landfill.



What Can You Do?

Look to your community's waste management plan to learn the type of facility in which your recyclables are processed. Ask your service provider how best to collect items to maintain their value, and get into the practice of source separating high-value items at work to prevent contamination.



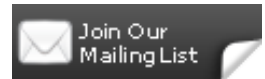
Policy

Access to recycling services is essential, but mere access doesn't push recycling rates high enough. Inform your local representatives about the need for recycling and composting infrastructure, and policy.

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



WasteCap Nebraska
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