

Residents of the City of Beaufort

As you are aware the City has contracted with WastePro for both residential trash and recycling pickup. The recycling process that they use is different from the process that was used by the City.

There has been a fundamental shift in the technology and business approach toward handling your recycling from the point of collection in front of your house to the processing for the end-markets performed at the MRF (Material Recovery Facility). There are basically 2 methods in use in this area today.

- Truck-Side sort – This is the method where the collector actually does all the sorting of the materials at the side of the truck into different compartments built into the truck. Since all the sorting is done on the route, the material is deposited into separate piles at the MRF for distribution to the end-markets. This method is for “loose” yards; it does not involve compaction since it’s virtually impossible to manufacture a compactor truck with 5 or more sections in the body to enable compacted yards.
- Two Stream sort – This method involves the collector sorting the recovered materials into only 2 separate streams of recycling. In the commingle stream, all fiber (newspaper, cardboard etc), plastic food and beverage containers, as well as, tin and aluminum food and beverage containers are loaded into one section of the truck. All glass food and beverage containers are loaded into a different section of the same truck. The truck has a compaction body split into two distinctly separate sections. The commingled materials are crushed to conserve space on the truck (plastic is very bulky in a loose load) and dumped out into a pile at the MRF. It then becomes the MRF’s responsibility to separate out the material by stream for distribution to the end markets. The process is identical for the handling of glass.

Not too long ago, WastePro of South Carolina, used to operate the Truck-side sort method of collection. However, as the technology of these truck manufacturers improved, it enabled companies like theirs to take advantages of the vastly enhanced productivity and efficiency which in turns allows them the opportunities to conduct business in a cost effective manner for municipalities such as the city of Beaufort. Just as compaction won out in the task of collection of household garbage over loose methods – the same can be said for compaction in the collection of your household recyclables you put out every week.

The MRF, that Waste Pro currently uses for depositing all recycling collected, is Recycle America on Hwy 462 in Ridgeland, SC. Every time they dump there, they get a weight ticket which displays the tonnage and stream of material – in this case, commingle and glass. All of our recycling collected can be verified by documentation to authenticate the processes.

While the recycle truck and garbage truck share some similarities (paint scheme, compaction bodies, etc...) they each have a specific purpose. We hope that this can better explain how Waste Pro conducts business in this very important area. The city greatly appreciates your comments and concerns.

For further information please visit our website at www.cityofbeaufort.org, click on Departments, click on Public Works, then Sanitation or contact WastePro at 843-645-4100.