

Drop-off Recycling Benefits Everyone

Even for those of us with a curbside recycling service, there are recyclable items that simply cannot be recycled at the curb. Such limitations are most often related to the size of the item or its material composition. For instance, a refrigerator must be disassembled before recycling due to being comprised of various metals, plastics, and refrigerant. Like many community drop-off recycling centers, the [Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center](#) accepts a variety of hard-to-recycle items, including small engines, electronics, ink & toner cartridges, textiles, appliances, and more.

[Click here](#) for a complete list of accepted materials at the Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center. To find another hard-to-recycle drop-off location near you, visit [RecycleAL.com](#).

ARC Conference Expo July 15-17



The Alabama Recycling Coalition (ARC) is hosting its 3rd Annual Recycling Conference & Expo at the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill, July 15-17, 2015. This is a great conference for citizens and municipal leaders



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to learn more about recycling in Alabama and beyond. For those new to recycling, you won't want to miss the ADEM Recycling Fund grant workshop and Recycling 101 course. For those looking to improve upon their recycling programs, there will be a panel discussion on municipal recycling programs, household hazardous waste collection, increasing recycling participation with carts, and more. The conference will conclude with optional tours of local recycling facilities. To register, complete the registration form found [here](#).

Dirty MRF: Is It Good for Recycling and the Environment?



We often get asked, "But does it really get recycled?" The answer is "yes, of course." Alabama's recycling industry employs roughly 11,000 people. Nationally, America's recycling industry is larger than our auto industry. A lot of this is achieved through material recovery facilities (MRF, pronounced "murf" in the industry). Traditionally, these facilities use humans and machines to sort recyclable items by material, then sale these materials to manufacturers and other recycling processors as commodities. However, we're



RAFIKI'S PRESENTS

GREEN TUESDAY

JUNE 2, 2015
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC - DRINKS - FRESH FOOD

BENEFITING THE ALABAMA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

367 VALLEY AVE, BIRMINGHAM, AL 35209

Enjoy a night of food and fun with your AEC family. Rafiki's is Birmingham's only full-service authentic Kenyan-Tanzanian Eastern African cuisine. They continue getting rave reviews and high praise for amazing food, great service, and friendly owner and staff. Join the AEC staff, Board, and friends for a night to connect and meet new friends. Live music will be provided by 'Seasoned to Please'.

Help Us Find A New Home For The Downtown Recycling Center



As you may already know, work is underway to relocate the Downtown Recycling Center to a larger space to restart glass recycling and expand our educational outreach. This larger space will also allow us the opportunity to accept a greater variety of materials. Future accepted materials may include motor oil, foam packaging, plastic bags, vegetable oil, mattresses, paint, mercury-containing devices such as thermostats and lamps, and others.

If you have resources to assist with finding and creating this space, we'd love to hear from you. Contact our office at (205)322-3126 or Recycling@AECOnline.org.

beginning to see the emergence of so-called advanced mixed materials recovery facilities (aka, Dirty MRFs).

Some refer to this type of facility as a dirty MRF because garbage and recycling are placed in one can at your curb, then sorted at the facility.

Although recovery rates tend to be higher in such a facility, the jury is still out as to whether these facilities are the future of recycling. For instance, despite higher recovery rates, both the [National Recycling Coalition](#) and the newly formed [Recycling Industry Coalition](#) have taken official stances against dirty MRFs due to potentially high contamination rates and its impact on existing recycling infrastructure.

One AEC concern is that these facilities will lead to unforeseen consequences related to environmental stewardship. Actively participating in recycling can lead to increased environmental awareness and other quality of life issues. Similar to littering, throwing everything into a garbage can to be sorted out by someone else takes away from the personal responsibility that is necessary in keeping our environment clean.

The [Southeast Recycling Development Council](#) is conducting a study of dirty MRFs to measure their impact on recycling in the Southeast. We'll let you know the results of this study upon their release, likely sometime this summer.

Connect with AEC:

Triple Pundit Publishes Article From Energy Project Manager Kyle Crider



Nationally known publisher Triple Pundit featured an article from AEC's Energy Project Manager discussing the benefits of solar mapping, like the Alabama Solar Knowledge Project:

"As author John Perlin documents in his excellent "Let It Shine: The 6,000-Year Story of Solar Energy," solar has both a rich and lengthy history. Solar mapping, however, has been a much more recent development, driven by computers and geographic information system (GIS) technology.

"Solar maps may depict solar energy potential, as well as existing and planned installations. Some maps contain historic information, allowing one to see solar advances over time. Sophisticated map tools allow users to test various solar configurations at a hypothetical installation site, determine cost savings/payback time periods, and even contact installers to "make it so." [Read more:](#)

To learn more about the ASK Project, visit www.ASKAlabama.info. If you know of any businesses or installations that should be included, contact info@ASKAlabama.info.

A recruitment poster with a white background and a dark border. The text is arranged in three lines: "WE'RE HIRING AT" in bold black uppercase letters, "THE RECYCLING" in large green uppercase letters, and "CENTER" in large green uppercase letters.

**WE'RE HIRING AT
THE RECYCLING
CENTER**

The Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center is hiring a part-time Recycling Center Driver. Qualified applicants must have a valid driver's license and clean driving record, be able to work outdoors, have customer service experience, and able to lift 70 lbs consistently and repeatedly. For complete job description and application instructions, [visit our website](#).

2014 Business Paper Recycling Program Stats Exceed Expectations



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The AEC [Business Paper Recycling Program](#) serves a variety of businesses, non-profits, and schools. In 2014, these 60 locations recycled over 264 tons of paper and cardboard. According to the Knoxville Recycling Coalition's [Environmental Impact Calculator](#), this is the equivalent of saving:

- 4,076 trees,
- 3,935 barrels of oil,
- 1,678,376 gallons of water,
- 983,049 kWh—enough to power the average home for 92 years!

The unique characteristic of this program is that it's easy for small businesses to participate and it's affordable. Many small businesses don't have the space for a recycling dumpster which is why we provide 96-gallon carts for paper recycling. We can place up to four carts (or more, if needed) at your business and service them on a schedule or as-needed basis. We even have a non-profit rate. Although we don't have bins or carts for other recyclables, we can help you recycle anything accepted at our [Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center](#). To sign up for service or for more information, contact our office at (205)322-3126 or Recycling@AEOnline.org.

Alabama Environmental Council
2014 6th Ave N, #200 - New Office Address!
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
www.AEOnline.org
Email: info@AEOnline.org
(205) 322-3126

Downtown Birmingham Recycling Center
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Birmingham, Alabama 35203
www.RecycleAL.com
Email: recycling@AEOnline.org
(205) 252-7581

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