

NMRC Statement About Waste to Energy and Dirty MRFs

The New Mexico Recycling Coalition does not support Waste-to-Energy enterprises nor Mixed Waste Processing/Dirty MRFs.

NMRC values waste as a resource. We encourage management methods that recover as much of a material's value as possible, such as reuse, recycling and composting. This prioritization is in line with the US Environmental Protection Agency's solid waste management hierarchy. Transformation of materials for energy recovery is both lower in the EPA hierarchy and discouraged by NMRC.



In addition, in a rural state with 2 million residents and limited solid waste streams, Waste-to-Energy (WTE) is unlikely to provide an agreeable return on investment. The cost of investment for these facilities is high and NMRC warns our communities around the state to be aware of these costs and the volumes of material needed in order to make the facility truly economically viable. The WTE technology has yet to be proven in rural states and on a smaller scale.

As far as Mixed Waste Processing, also known as a Dirty MRF, NMRC agrees with national stakeholder group, Recycling Industries Coalition, that these facilities that take all materials from the trash bin and then sorts out recyclable materials pose many challenges to the recycling industry. Concerns include quality of recyclable materials, reduced value of recyclable commodities, and the inevitable loss of recyclable material due to the mixing with solid waste.

To view the Recycling Industries Coalition position on Dirty MRFs: <http://nrcrecycles.org/nrc-supports-the-recycling-industry-coalition-policy-opposing-dirty-mrfs/>