

YOU can Make a Difference!

Our area is plagued with mixed messages, confusion, and misleading statistics when it comes to recycling. The good news is Betty and GreenBlue are taking action, and your efforts can make a difference, too!

1. Share our vision with the County's Board of Supervisors at bos@albemarle.org
2. Join our volunteer team of recycling ambassadors, the Zero Waste Warriors
3. Donate to Betty at betterworldbetty.org/donate
4. Donate to GreenBlue at <http://bit.ly/1hGZfJa>

OUR VISION

We envision a **curbside 3-bin system** for household recyclables, compostables, and landfill trash for both city and county urban areas. San Francisco, Ann Arbor, and Portland are examples of the almost 200 communities with curbside collection of food scraps (*BioCycle Magazine, Jan. 2015*). Used in combination with conveniently-placed recycling centers in the county's rural areas, we believe this could achieve a **70% recycling rate** or greater.

Using this system will give us the best recycling rates AND offer a system whereby the products we separate for recycling in our homes can be manufactured into products that we can then purchase to create a "closed loop" system. We believe this is a **compelling, achievable vision** that will contribute to a thriving economy.

Teri Kent, Founder, Better World Betty

Nina Goodrich, Executive Director,
GreenBlue

Know before you throw!

An Introduction to Recycling in the
Charlottesville-Albemarle Area

Brought to you by:



ALL-IN-ONE*

Primary system for **County** residents. Private haulers take waste and recyclables to mixed waste processing facility in Zion Crossroads.



Lowest Quality

All-in-one uses Mixed Waste Processing at a Material Recovery Facility (**MWP** at what is often referred to as a “**dirty MRF**”).

- Requires no sorting
- Typically lowest recovery rates due to contamination
- Local facility’s self-reported rate for 2014 is 21% (does not account for contaminants sorted out during reprocessing. Processor has installed new equipment operational 6/2015).

Bottom line: MWP is not preferred as a primary recycling option, but is useful as a “last effort” to capture recyclables. Several recycling industry groups have come out against this form of collection.

** Often incorrectly referred to as “Single Stream” within the City and County*

SINGLE STREAM

City of Charlottesville primary system. Recyclables go to a Chester, VA sorting facility that handles recyclables.



Single Stream requires households to separate recyclables from trash, which are then sent to what is often referred to as a “**clean MRF**” for further sorting.

- Requires separating commingled recyclables from trash
- Helps communities to incentivize recycling
- Adding a third composting bin would further increase recycling rates

Bottom Line: Separating recyclables and compostables (food scraps, yard waste, and compostable packaging) from landfill trash allows for increased recycling. [See “Our Vision” on the back of this pamphlet.]

SOURCE SEPARATED

McIntire drop-off center (and other centers) for **County and City** residents. Recyclables go to recycling companies like Sonoco in Central Virginia.



Highest Quality

Source separation requires sorting by type by the consumer.

- Preferred by recyclers
- Lowest contamination

Bottom Line: Best quality and highest revenues come from source separation.

Resources:

www.greenblue.org/tag/reloop-what-is-mixed-waste-processing-or-all-in-onedirty-mrf-recycling

www.betterworldbetty.org/zero-waste-warriors

www.zerowastehouston.org

County Committee:
<http://bit.ly/1M1Pcc5>