

The Conroe/North Montgomery County Recycle Center

- **The facility opened for business on August 1, 2017.**
- **The Center is located at 142 W. Wally Wilkerson Parkway, Conroe, TX 77303 and sits on 3 acres.**



H.G.A.C. Grant Funds

- The Houston–Galveston Area Council grant paid for the construction of the facility as well as much of the equipment.
- Montgomery County Precinct 1 provides the employees as well as operational expenses.
- The City of Conroe, through a contract with Waste Management provides the roll off containers that stores the separated recyclable materials.

Items accepted & Amounts collected

1. Paper
 - a. 19.43 Tons
2. Cardboard
 - a. 24.06 Tons
3. Plastic
 - a. 5.92 Tons
4. Glass
 - a. 11.33 Tons
5. Metal
 - a. 1.97 Tons
6. **TOTAL TONS COLLECTED 62.71**



Collection Goal

- A total of 62.71 tons of recyclable items have been shipped in the 8 months that we have been in operation.
- The facilities goal was to collect 80,000 lbs of recyclables by the end of the 1st calendar year.
- The goal was met and was also exceeded by 45,420 lbs or 22.71 tons with over 3 months remaining in our first year of collections.

Hours of Operation

- Tuesday–Friday
 - 7am to 5pm
- Saturday
 - 7am til Noon
- Sunday and Monday
 - Closed

How the Facility operates

- To be able to open the facility in a timely manner we had to set priorities. One of our resource persons, Cheryl Burton-Fentress –Household Hazardous Waste Program Manager– Harris County Watershed Protection Group advised us to first open the facility for traditional household recycling of paper, plastic, glass, cardboard, and cans.
- After we established a client base for the facility, we determined what additional services were needed and we will modify the program to meet the clients needs.
- We designed and have used a survey form for our clients and through feedback, have found the most mentioned service that we are lacking is the disposal of electronics.
- We have submitted to the County Attorney's Office a contract with the R2 Corporation, an electronics recycler and are waiting for a reply.

Advertisement of the Facility

- The Montgomery County website has information regarding how the facility works.
- We created and distributed brochures for our customers and we have pushed brochures to various civic clubs, homeowners associations and the Chamber of Commerce.
- We did an insert into the City of Conroe water bill that reached almost 19,000 customers.
- We distributed hundreds of brochures at collection sites for Precinct 1 Heavy Trash days (March 17th & March 18th, 2018).

Plans for the future

- In the future we hope to be able to recycle electronics and have a satellite facility one day a week in Montgomery (this could be useful and helpful for the community).
- We are looking into doing a recycling partnership with a local public elementary school and a local private school.



Successes of the Facility

- A local grocery store donated hundreds of used produce containers that have made excellent recycling receptacles.
- We share or reuse the donated receptacles with new recyclers.
- We were also fortunate to find a vendor that will accept glass and provided us with a 22 foot roll off for free that has been emptied twice.



Challenges

- Our biggest challenge occurred on August 25th 2017 when Hurricane Harvey hit our facility -between the wind and rain of over 30 inches- although our structure was not harmed the facility was inaccessible and was closed for a week.





WHEELS MUST BE REMOVED

NEWSPAPER
MAGAZINES
JUNK
MAIL

STYROFOAM
CORN
COBBS
REFRIG.
FOOD



PLASTIC
BOTTLES OF
BEVERAGE

2

1

Lessons learned

- Our first 8 months have been a learning experience. We are still a work in progress, but we are pleased that through the assistance of the Houston-Galveston Area Council we have been able to keep 62.71 tons recyclables out of landfills.
- It is amazing that many new residents that relocated from out of state are much more familiar with recycling than are we Native Texans.

The effect of China's Import Policies

- Since we do not single stream we do not ship any materials that are contaminated. We are hopeful that other markets are secured for recyclables so that one country's restrictions will not end the market.