



**SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSULTANTS**

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# Materials Recovery Facilities Systems and Equipment Projects

## Overview

Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) face myriad challenges and opportunities:

- International market constriction is affecting the marketability of materials yet opening opportunities for innovation.
- The packaging landscape is always evolving and restrictions on contamination in bales are nearly reaching the limits of reality nonetheless reducing contamination in bales is a top priority.
- Regardless of the concerns of profitability or the types of materials that end up at MRFs (even though they should be destined to go elsewhere (perhaps Household Hazardous Waste), safety in operations remains key.
- North America has come to rely on MRFs as key waste disposal infrastructure. However, much of our MRF Infrastructure is aging, therein lies the opportunity for major upgrades and/or new facility designs incorporating smart technology and more efficient operations.

Either as standalone projects or as part of wide-ranging long-term strategic planning initiatives, GBB has the resources and expertise to help clients plan, develop, procure, and implement materials recovery facilities or assist owners and operators in improving efficiencies and finding innovative ways to produce cleaner bales of recycled fibers on a limited budget.

With ever-increasing pressure from regulatory landscapes and commodity markets impacted by international pressures, GBB provides a suite of MRF-related services customized to meet clients' needs, challenges, and budgets, that include:

### New MRF Design or Major Upgrades

- Feasibility studies
  - Development, procurement, and contracting
  - Development of conceptual plans and costs
  - Operational cost analysis/modeling
  - Financial projections
- Construction monitoring and acceptance testing
- Procurements of operation and management services

### Evaluation of Existing MRF System

- Technology reviews
- Maintenance and safety reviews and recommendations
- Reviews of throughput, operations, staffing, and equipment
- Capacity reviews and expansion alternatives
- Development of strategies to improve efficiency and material recovery



## Past Performance

Over the years, GBB has performed multiple successful projects helping private- and public-sector clients. Sample clients include:



## Thought Leadership

GBB produced two reports, commissioned by the American Chemistry Council, on the history and current state of Mixed Waste Processing facilities and equipment in North America:

- [The Evolution of Mixed Waste Processing Facilities: 1970 – Today](#)
- [The Evolution of Mixed Waste Processing Facilities - Technology & Equipment Guide](#)

GBB consultants author and present often on this topic. Recent articles and presentations include:

- [MRF Capabilities and Circular Economy Off-Ramps](#), Brad Kelley, presented at the REMADE Circular Economy Tech Summit & Conference, Washington, DC (October 2024).
- [Data, Data, Everywhere](#), Steven Schilling, published in Waste Today (September 2024).
- [Smart Technologies for Processing Municipal Solid Waste](#), Brad Kelley, presented at the Bioenergy Sustainability Virtual Conference (December 2021).
- [From Deciding What to Build to Lessons Learned – A Mixed Waste Processing Case Study in Utah](#), Chris Lund and Brad Kelley, presented at GBB Access! Webinar (February 2021).
- [Conversion Technologies and the Needs of Front-end Processing Systems](#), Brad Kelley, published in Waste Today (May 2020).
- [State of Technology for MSW Processing: Smart Technologies for Processing MSW](#), Brad Kelley, presented at the BETO From Waste to Conversion-Ready Feedstocks Workshop (February 2020).
- [Big Data and the Waste Industry](#), Brad Kelley; published in Waste Today (August 2019).
- [IoT \(Internet of Things\) and Predictive vs. Preventive Maintenance](#), Brad Kelley, presented at the Virginia Recycling Association Conference, Glen Allen, VA (May 2019).
- [Contamination and the Markets: Smart Technologies for Contamination Management](#), Brad Kelley, presented at the Maryland Recycling Network / SWANA Mid-Atlantic Conference, Ellicott City, MD (June 2018).
- [The Future of Processing and Collecting](#), Harvey Gershman, presented at the Paper & Plastics Recycling Conference, Chicago, IL (October 2016).
- [Processing Equipment and Recovery, from MRFs to MWPFs](#), Brad Kelley, presented at the Waste360 Recycling Summit, Austin, TX (September 2016).