2016 Excellence Award Entry

Entry Title: A Step Towards Zero Waste
Category: Recycling Systems
Sun Valley, CA – San Fernando Valley
Population: 1.2 Million people
Cost Per Household: $42
Approx. Budget: $50 Million

Submitted By Entrant Organization:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Athens’ Sun Valley MRF opened in October 2014 and was built with the latest in waste processing equipment. The facility is permitted to handle 1,500 TPD of mixed commercial and multifamily waste including source-separated and co-mingled recyclables. A first of its kind in Los Angeles, this facility will be LEED® certified, equipped with a solar powered collection system and furnished with the latest energy efficient, environmental controls available in the industry.

The operation is fully enclosed and equipped with fast-acting doors and a misting system to assist with mitigating odor, dust, and storm water impacts. The MRF equipment is custom designed by Bulk Handling Systems (BHS) and based on Athens’ extensive experience processing mixed solid waste (MSW), multi-family, single-family and commercial material streams in Southern California.

VIDEO OVERVIEW
https://youtu.be/taUCHnAzlgw

1. DESIGN AND PLANNING OF RECYCLING SYSTEMS

Introduction

Athens is proud of the Sun Valley MRF and it took over ten years to finalize the Solid Waste Facilities Permit. The project took over two years of ongoing engineering and designing of the equipment and buildings. Due to the space constraints of the project, it was especially challenging to fit the equipment into the building and accomplish our goals for commodity selection, diversion and throughput. Our partnership with Bulk Handling Systems (BHS) and our contractor W.L. Butler were key in bringing this project to life.

Process

Bulk Handling Systems has decades of experience in the US and throughout the world developing waste processing systems of all types and scale. The company’s integrated mixed materials recovery process allows cities to maximize diversion from landfill by maximizing the recovery of commodities, including organics.

BHS bases its approach on the following assumptions:

- High processing rates are required. Athens is able to process 70 tons-per-hour (tph)
- High recovery rates of recyclables and organics are required. A processing system is only of value if it is rugged, robust, and easy to keep operational. Operators are not successful when their equipment is not running, so BHS designs and build its systems to run at greater than 90% operational efficiency. BHS delivers this through the following methods:
  - Meticulous design engineering, ensuring every piece of equipment is properly sized and integrated into the rest of the system.
  - Best-in-class manufacturing systems, ensuring every component has quality fit and finish, and is rugged and reliable enough to withstand years of service in the harshest operating environments.
  - Robust quality control mechanisms, ensuring that every part of the system has been checked for proper build and operation prior to shipment.
  - Dedicated project management, training, and ongoing support to ensure that the system is organized and well run.

The BHS process has been refined over 35 years of providing material sorting and handling solutions to the waste industry. It has proven to be so effective that BHS has patented it. The philosophy can be described in a few key points:

- Ensure steady, even flow of materials throughout the system
- Segregate the materials into fractions based on size
- Condition the material stream by employing density separation
- Segregate materials into fractions based on shape (2-dimensional and 3-dimensional)
- Apply optical sorting to recover final products

If any of these is not present, the system will not deliver the required results. Understanding that each element of the BHS patented process is critical to the overall success, these steps are integrated into every mixed materials processing system that the company designs, manufactures and installs.
2. USE OF EQUIPMENT / SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

Process Overview

1. **Tip Floor & Metered Infeed**
   Feeds system at an even rate

2. **Pre-Sort & Bag Breaker®**
   Removes bulky items and liberates commodities from bags

3. **OCC Separator® & Debris Roll Screen®**
   Captures cardboard and removes fines

4. **Nihot Single Drum Separator**
   Separates high value commodities, such as paper and containers

5. **Fiber / Container Separation**
   Separates containers from paper and plastic bags and creates clean mixed paper

6. **Container Sorting**
   Magnets and Optical Sorters create variety of plastic and metal commodities

7. **Baling & Storage**
   Bales commodities for transport

8. **Residue Load-Out**
   Enables sorting of hard-to-detect materials such as books and magazines

9. **Organics Load-Out**
   Ensures organics are not disposed of in landfill

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**LOCATION** | Sun Valley, CA
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**COMMISSIONED** | October 2014
**TYPE** | Mixed Materials
**TONAGE** | 70 tph
**FACILITY** | 80,000 sq. ft.
**RECOVERY** | More than 90 percent of available recoverables
Tip Floor & Metered Infeed

Materials are loaded from the Tip Floor and fed into the system at a metered rate.

The BHS Metering System provides a highly effective method of feeding materials into the system. A variable speed chain belt conveyor matched with a leveling drum precisely regulates material flow. The result is a steady, even flow of materials that maximizes screening and sorter efficiency throughout the system.

Benefits
- Increases throughput and system capacity up to 20%
- Ensures a steady and even material feed into the system
- Prevents material gaps and surges
- Maximizes system screen and sorting efficiency
- Frees up loader operator to perform other tasks
- Heavy-duty construction maximizes uptime
- Eliminates need for costly pits and additional civil work

Pre-Sort & Bag Breaker®

Bags are fed into the Bag Breaker®, which frees commodities without damage and leaves plastic in large, easy to remove pieces. In the Pre-Sort, large, bulky items are removed before they can damage equipment.

The BHS Bag Breaker® opens bags at high volumes without damaging content, ensuring maximum recovery of valuable recyclables. The patented Bag Breaker® uses large, counter-rotating drums to efficiently open the bags and release the contents, discharging them from the bottom of the machine. Bags are torn into large pieces for easy removal. Bagged material can be fed directly into the BHS Bag Breaker® with an infeed conveyor to achieve an evenly-metered flow rate.

Benefits
- Clean-out doors on two sides for easy access and maintenance
- Easy to retrofit into existing facility
- Opens bags without damaging valuable recyclables
- Bags are torn to large pieces rather than shredded for easy removal
- Heavy-duty construction for decreased downtime and long operating life
3 OCC Separator® & Debris Roll Screen®

After the Pre-Sort, materials enter the OCC Separator. Cardboard surfs over the screen while other commodities fall down to the Debris Roll Screen®, which removes organic materials, such as food waste for composting.

OCC Separator®

Recover old corrugated containers from the material stream, and passes smaller commodities through the discs for further processing.

The BHS OCC Separator® separates old corrugated containers (OCC) from mixed recyclables. The uniquely designed and patented OCC Separator® delivers unmatched separation efficiency. Our in-line, tri-shaped discs impart a bouncing, wavelike action on the material stream, liberating smaller products from OCC. Small items fall through the Inter-Face Opening (IFO) between the discs, while the OCC carries over the screen deck creating a clean cardboard product.

Benefits

- Effectively recover OCC from mixed recyclables
- Patented in-line discs provide accurate sizing of material, increasing the percentage of OCC recovered and reducing the amount to be manually sorted
- Disc design reduces potential for material wrap, reducing downtime
- Heavy-duty discs ensure long disc life and reduced maintenance

Debris Roll Screen®

Sizes a wide range of materials with the most efficient and accurate screening configuration available.

The BHS Debris Roll Screen® is the industry’s flagship disc screen. This proven, patented technology is the premiere sizing tool for single stream, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste, wood waste, compost, green waste, plastics, glass, tires and other miscellaneous materials. Others have tried to mimic the DRS, but none can match the efficiency, accuracy, and durability of the original.

Patented Disc Design

Patented BHS compound discs are in-line from shaft-to-shaft creating a precise opening for highly accurate material sizing.

- The unique, patented discs provide excellent material agitation and separation.
- The compound disc design provides a true sizing effect, far superior to other disc or “star” screens.
- Patented gear timing paired with variable speed drives allows for fine tuning for varying material conditions.
The Nihot Single Drum Separator (SDS) using air separation to extract lighter, high value commodities such as paper and containers, from heavy items such as large organics, wood and rock.

Separates material based on density through the use of high-volume, low-pressure air and a rotating drum.

The Nihot Drum Separator is a highly efficient and effective solution for separating material streams based on density. The SDS uses a rotating drum and recirculating fan to pull light materials away from heavy materials and into the engineered expansion chamber. The result is pure heavies or pure lights. It’s the best and most field proven density separator on the market and capacities up to 100-tph of input and up to 25-tph of separated light fraction.

Benefits
- Fast return on investment
- Highly adjustable separation
- Guarantee high separation efficiency up to 99%
- Proven installations around the world
- Low maintenance costs and very few wear parts, means more uptime and low operational costs

Heavy materials from the Nihot, such as wood, aggregate, and large plastics and organics, are sorted. A magnet targets ferrous metals.
Fiber / Container Separation

The Polishing Screens feature a 3-way sort: 1) Any remaining fines fall through, 2) Containers and rigid materials tumble downwards and off the screens, and 3) Paper and plastic bags ascend over the screen.

Mixed paper quality is of upmost importance in this environment. FiberPure™ Screens directly follow the Polishing Screens, and remove and small, soiled materials. NRT FiberPure™ Optical Sorters target and positively sort mixed paper, maximizing fiber purity. The Optical Sorters feature built-in flexibility to adjust to material changes; they can target either plastic bags or mixed paper with a positive sort.

Polishing Screen
Creates a clean stream of sortable containers by screening out two-dimensional paper and fines

The BHS Polishing Screen-DRS® is the industry’s most effective and efficient separator of containers from paper. This highly versatile screen utilizes the patented BHS compound, in-line Tri-Disc™ design that virtually eliminates material wrapping. This keeps maintenance costs low and material quality high.

The adjustable, three-section angled deck creates three material fractions: mixed fiber, containers and fines. Two-dimensional materials are conveyed over the screening surface, while the containers and other three-dimensional objects roll off the back of the screen for sorting. Small contaminants fall through the screen, keeping them out of the finished products. The result is an extremely clean container stream, resulting in maximum recovery of valuable containers and virtually no loss of fiber to residue.

Benefits
• Single piece of equipment to separate paper from containers — no further fiber removal from the container line is necessary with a BHS Polishing Screen
• Patented in-line discs virtually eliminate material wrapping, resulting in reduced downtime, enhanced safety and extended screening efficiency
• Longest disc wear in the industry
FiberPure™ Screen

Removes small, soiled contaminants from mixed paper and plastic bags.

The BHS FiberPure™ Screen is a series of 12 specialized Debris Roll SCREEN® shafts used to treat the two-dimensional product carried over the Polishing Screen. The Tri-Discs™ aggressively agitate the material to remove small contaminants such as wet tissue, toweling, diapers, candy wrappers, and other like items. The result is a two-dimensional material stream consisting of mostly high-quality fiber. This material stream is then treated optically to remove plastic bags.

Benefits
- Removes small and soiled fiber and plastics to ensure commodity quality
- Tri-Disc™ in-line configuration provides precise sizing
- Aggressively agitates material for separation efficiency in relatively small footprint
- Provides even flow infeed to fiber or plastic optical sorter

FiberPure™ Optical Sorters

Detects plastic bags in flight, ejects and conveys away from clean mixed paper commodity.

The NRT FiberPure™ Optical Sorters are specialized SpydIR® Optical Sorters that are programmed to detect and eject either mixed paper or plastic bags. This mixed materials environment is designed to process a variety of material streams, from multi-family MSW to Single Stream to commercial materials. Normally there are high volumes of paper, which calls for a positive ejection of mixed paper from plastic bags. The result is a clean mixed paper product.

Benefits
- In-Flight Sorting® provides unbeatable purity and hit rates
- Proprietary infrared sensing technology and algorithms for rapid detection and high throughput
- NIR identification of multiple material types, including flexibility to detect mixed paper or plastic bags
- Remote diagnostics, adjustments and upgrades
- Operator-friendly color touch-screen graphic control panel

Centrally located around the control room, quality control stations are setup to remove any last remaining contaminants in the mixed paper stream. The container line Pre-Sort is also located in this area.
**Container Sorting**

- **Magnet**
  - Captures ferrous metals

- **NRT SpydIR®-T**
  - Targets and ejects HDPE-Natural

- **NRT SpydIR®-R**
  - Targets and ejects remaining HDPE

- **NRT SpydIR®-T**
  - Targets and ejects PET

- **Eddy Current Separator**
  - Captures aluminum

- **Container Line Post-Sort**
  - Sorters ensure quality of commodities

- **Storage Bunkers**
  - Containers are stored and leveled until baled

Visit [www.athensservices.com](http://www.athensservices.com) to learn more.
NRT SpydIR®-T

Uses transmissive detection for enhanced signal strength on clear plastics, this SpydIR®-T Optical Sorter recovers plastic containers by polymer type.

The SpydIR® is an advanced infrared sorting system that separates numerous selected polymers from a mixed stream. It uses proprietary technology and fast, highly sensitive algorithms to rapidly identify unique polymer “signatures” from their infrared spectra. The SpydIR® is the only optical sorter that uses patented PET Boost® technology that improves detection (up to 100x signal strength) of thin-wall PET, wet PET and full sleeve labeled PET. While other optical sorters detect material over the belt and eject some time later, NRT offers In-Flight Sorting®, which detects and ejects material in flight. In-Flight Sorting® enables the use of transmissive detection, and eliminates motion related error and belt interference, increasing purity levels and hit rates.

Benefits
- In-Flight Sorting® enables use of transmissive detection for robust signal
- Proprietary infrared sensing technology and algorithms for rapid detection
- Operator-friendly color touch screen graphic control panel
- PET Boost® technology improves detection of thin wall PET, wet PET and full sleeve PET
- Industry leading signal-to-noise ratio is ideal for thin-wall PET
- High speed identification with throughput rates exceeding 16,000 lb/hr
- Low maintenance requirements
- Remote diagnostics, adjustments and upgrades

NRT SpydIR®-R

Recovers plastic containers by polymer type, in any combination, through the use of reflected near-infrared light.

The SpydIR-R® is an advanced infrared sorting system that separates selected polymers from a mixed container stream. It uses proprietary technology and fast, highly sensitive algorithms to rapidly identify unique polymer “signatures” from their infrared spectra. The SpydIR™-R uses reflective detection, with the light source and detection array above the material.

Benefits
- In-Flight Sorting® provides industry leading purity and hit rates
- PET Boost™ increases signal strength on thin-walled and “wet” PET, greatly increasing recovery
- Flexibility to change selected polymers
- Full array of spectrometers allows for identification across entire belt width
- High speed identification with throughput rates exceeding 16,000 lb/hr
- Remote diagnostics, adjustments and upgrades
- Low maintenance requirements
Storage bunkers are located under the main sorting decks, designed for efficient transport and for maximum functionality in this busy environment. Commodities are baled and loaded onto trucks for re-use.

Heavy materials from the Nihot, such as wood, aggregate, and large plastics and organics, are sorted. A magnet targets ferrous metals.
Overall merit and impact of the recycling program.

Athens Services offers a one bin system to its customers. This allows Athens Services’ team to have access to the entire waste stream. In a traditional ‘single stream’ recycling facility, the operators rely on the decisions a patron makes at the bin. These decisions understandably come with mistakes for the typical citizen. What is PP5 after all?

As a private company, Athens has been able to approach resource recovery from the perspective of an operator with no need to meet investor demands on short-term profitability. We seek continuous improvement in everything we do and find revenue streams within the material that have been identified as complete industry paradigm shifts. This perhaps would not be possible in other companies.

Outside of landfill diversion and highly rated commodity production, the Sun Valley MRF hires and trains the best talent in the processing industry. All hires are local. Some have been promoted from the sort line or hired after serving in the military. Others have been hired after getting laid off from industries that are moving overseas or recruited from technology startups to offer new insights. Through it all, Athens has identified talented individuals with completely different backgrounds, coalesced around its mission to benefit people, profit and planet and we’ve begun to accomplish enormous things in this industry.

What makes Athens Excellent?

“Best MRF operator in the country.” “Cleanest MRF we’ve ever seen.” “Your team really cares about its employees.” “HOW LONG have you been open??!!” These are constant remarks we get when touring schools, neighbors, customers, industry experts and foreign dignitaries. And while we do celebrate our accomplishments, we proactively seek new opportunities in every facet of our operation.

Each operations employee and maintenance technician is an expert at operating each piece of equipment, ranging from adjustments of optical sorters, air density classifiers or human-machine interfaces. We constantly test variables to ensure we are adapting to the changing waste stream.

We seek advice from our partners and ask questions that many operators are scared to ask. During the recent slump in oil prices, we changed the entire order of our container line in order to recover only the highest quality plastics and ended up improving our value per processed ton significantly.

We separate film plastics and PP5 while other companies complain about growing inventory and a lack of buyers. We then sell those items based on detailed specifications of our buyers. We’ve changed the reputation of our company from ‘mixed waste processor’ to ‘material feedstock designer’.

We know the quality and make routing recommendations for every inbound truck that comes to this MRF. An inbound quality inspector enters information into our database so that we can analyze the quality and changes of our waste streams depending on seasonality, time, day, week or geography.

We invite you to come see what makes us excellent.

3. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The facility is completely enclosed with fast activating doors to prevent noise impact on the neighbors. The site was designed to comply with the South Coast AQMD rule 410. This rule requires that the facility have an inward flow of air with the exhausted air passing through a halo of misters to mitigate any odor impact on the neighbors. The storm water runoff is kept clean by having all of the waste activities happening inside the building, frequent sweeping of the grounds, and having filtration systems on all of the catch basins. There is even a recharge system that allows the rain water to filter back into the groundwater basin rather than flow off to the ocean. During rain events, rainwater is tested in three different locations for pH, suspended solids and iron.

The grounds are kept in excellent condition through a combination of employee litter control and a sweeper machine that cleans the grounds and the street twice a day. All bales and commodities are stored indoors and all material from the tipping floor is processed or transferred well within 24 hours of arrival.

The people running the facility take great pride in operating the MRF. The MRF has regular inspections by the City of Los Angeles and have not received any regulatory citations or areas of concern. The Athens Sun Valley site has been
operating normally and has even made improvements to support the workers by applying additional protection by blocking direct sunlight into working areas where worker vision may be affected. The facility continues to perform waste characterizations to maximize the amount of recyclables pulled out of the waste stream.

The facility continues to be in the local news as a leader in the industry and has also received national recognition. In March of 2015, the Athens Sun Valley MRF received the Gold, Best Industrial Project at the Commercial Real Estate Awards put on by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal. In late 2014, the office space of the facility received The LA Green Business Certification and continues to support sustainable business practices.

The Sun Valley MRF has submitted its application for LEED Silver for the office building structure. All fixtures in the restrooms are low flow, the lights are high efficiency and the building materials were derived from recycled materials.
January 15, 2016

David Thompson
david.thompson@lacity.org

SUBJECT: State Inspection Report for Athens Sun Valley Material Recover & Transfer Station No. 19-AR-5581

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Pursuant to Division 30, Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 43219, staff of the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), conducted an inspection of the subject facility on December 17, 2015. The site was inspected as part of the Los Angeles/Pacoima/Sun Valley Environmental Justice Initiative in conjunction with Martin Rosen and Howard Alger of your staff. A copy of CalRecycle staff's inspection report is enclosed for your records. A copy of the enclosed inspection report has also been forwarded to the facility operator.

One purpose of this inspection is to evaluate whether the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) is appropriately applying and enforcing State Minimum Standards (SMS) at solid waste facilities within its jurisdiction. Therefore, this letter and the inspection report provides recommendations and/or directions on compliance issues observed during the facility inspection.

The facility was evaluated for compliance with applicable sections of Division 30 of the PRC, the terms and conditions of the Solid Waste Facility Permit, Title 27, California Code of Regulations (27 CCR), and Title 14, California Code of Regulations (14 CCR).

There were no violations or areas of concern noted during the inspection.

Your agency’s cooperation during the recent inspection is appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the inspection report, please contact Daniel Anderson of my staff at (916) 341-6342 or me at (916) 341-6403.

Sincerely,

Jon Whitehill, Supervisor
Inspections and Enforcement Agency Compliance Unit B
Waste Evaluation and Enforcement Branch
Waste Permitting, Compliance and Mitigation Division

4. WORKER HEALTH & SAFETY

Employee Training

Athens has established a robust training program referred to as “The 52-12 Training Calendar” where weekly safety meetings are conducted with all frontline employees. The month consists of a safety topic, week 1, OSHA Compliance topic week 2, injury prevention topic week 3, and safety topic week 4. Athens Services uses the Smith System as the foundation to our driver safety training program. Our compliance topics include:

- LOTO
- Hazard Communication – Global Harmonization Systems
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Hearing Conservation
- Heat Illness Prevention Program
- Injury Illness Prevention Program
- Fire Prevention
- Blood borne Pathogens
- Fall Protection
- Confined Space Entry
- Respiratory Protection
- Emergency Response
- Drug and Alcohol Awareness
Injury Rates
Athens Services Experience Modification Rate (EMR) continues to decline which is below the industry standard and continues to improve.

2016  .63
2015  .64
2014  .72

We have a dedicated, in-house Worker’s Compensation Manager who supports an aggressive return to work program. The benefits of this program reduce lost work days, improve recovery time, improve employee morale and demonstrate our commitment to sustaining employee’s work availability.

Athens employees receive a formal safety orientation before commencing work and are trained on the job by a lead foreman. Athens Company Policy is that all accidents and injuries are reported immediately to their supervisor where an in depth investigation occurs to determine the root cause and prevent a reoccurrence. In the event of a preventable incident, an employee receives retraining, an observation and appropriate progressive discipline in accordance with our company policy.

5. PERFORMANCE, ECONOMICS & COST-EFFECTIVENESS

The Athens MRF was built with the main objective of diverting material away from the landfill, so the higher the diversion the more successful we are. We look at the system throughput and recovery rate on a daily basis. The goal is to divert 40% of mixed waste that is run over the system from the landfill.

On a daily basis, we track metrics such as where our inbound material comes from, what type and in what quantities, how much of each commodity we produce from our system from these streams and how many tons we process with this equipment under different conditions. We are unique in the fact that our cutting edge MRF is able to compare its production versus the non-automated Athens Services MRF at our headquarters. With the combined knowledge mentioned, we are able to understand our production at a very minute scale and how small adjustments to our system can affect the amount diverted from the landfill.

The facility has a rigorous waste screening procedure. Every load that enters the facility is weighed over a scale. Each scale is outfitted with its own radiation detector to screen for radioactive waste. As each load is being dumped on the tipping floor a foreman inspects each load to determine the loads recyclable content. Then a loader operator is directed to cut out poor quality sections of the load to be sent to the landfill with the balance of the load being fed in to the sorting system. Daily two loads are randomly inspected in detail for household hazardous waste.

How do you Measure Success?
Athens has high expectations and we know it takes time to adopt new technologies and fine tune the equipment to yield favorable results. We continue to invest time with BHS and gain a better understanding of our mixed waste streams so we can meet our performance expectations.

In order to meet expectations for return on investment, the facility needed to maximize throughput of material at an uptime of over 95%. We are currently at 98.6% uptime. This has been achieved through building an excellent operations and maintenance team, training sorters and operators and hiring them into full-time positions and measuring all aspects of the operation on a constant basis.

The operation conducts regular throughput studies and waste characterizations of all inputs and outputs to understand which items might be recovered more effectively, which items could be hazards and potentially would could be done in improve recovery on some items. We are currently meeting expectations of 70 tons per hour on two lines.

With exceptional personnel, cross training and a deep understanding of our waste and equipment, the Sun Valley MRF produces commodities that surpass many Single Stream MRFs. Indeed, in several cases we’ve taken the residue from recycling companies and recovered enormous value from their lack of processing effectiveness. With such high quality bales, we’ve been able to bring in new buyers within markets that are currently slowing nationwide.

How Much Downtime Does the System Have?
The system currently experiences only 1.4% downtime with an average instance of 2 minutes. In order to reduce downtime, we’ve logged every instance of downtime into a database and analyzed the root causes on a rolling basis. Constant reporting and re-training has all stakeholders tuned into what can create a successful shift. A formalized maintenance program has drastically increased productivity and stands as a model for the entire
Ensuring a Clean Facility and Vehicles
The MRF is the newest facility in the Athens Portfolio. The executive team and ownership took great pride in ensuring approval from the local community and city council when designing the building and operation. The design is modern yet subdued enough to blend in with the existing environment. The landscaping of the property uses only native plant species in order to restrict water usage which is especially important during the current drought conditions in the Southern California community. All employees endeavor to be clean and quiet neighbors to the Sun Valley community by practicing regular litter prevention, performing street sweeping and not allowing idling trucks.

Our trucks are taken to our LA North operations facility down the street where there is a truck wash bay to keep the vehicles clean and to ensure the wash water is recycled.

Awards & Certifications
• City of Los Angeles Green Business Certification 2015
• San Fernando Business Journal Gold Award - Best Industrial Project 2015
• San Fernando Business Journal Silver Award - Best Redevelopment Project 2016

6. PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE, APPEARANCE AND AESTHETICS

Being a Good Neighbor
The Sun Valley MRF gives tours to the public on a regular basis. Athens has given tours to City Councilmembers, Mayors, and other distinguished guests. The tour provides educational information and we continue to educate communities about our processes and the importance of landfill avoidance.

For Earth Month in April, our company supported many Earth Day activities where we educated customers and potential customers on the importance of pulling recyclable material out of the waste stream. Athens also gives back to the community by having free compost giveaways for cities and large entities.