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The Current State of Recycling



The State of Recycling

- Recycling materials are shipped as commodities worldwide.
- Most of the West Coast recycling is shipped into Asia.
- China imposed restrictions that have had a cause and effect of creating a worldwide crisis.



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China's National Gate Sword

- Until 2017, China was the largest importer of recycling in the world.
- 65% of all recycling was sold to China
- China set new material standards of less than 1% contamination and banned 24 items.



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Material Recovery Facilities (MRF)

EDCO operates two state of the art processing facilities in San Diego County.

These facilities process over 1.7 million pounds of recycling daily or approximately 250,000 tons per year.



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Material Recovery Facilities' Processing Challenges

Since National Sword, all processing facilities are being challenged by taking material with high levels of contamination and processing it to less than 1% contamination!



Film Plastic Tangled in Processing Equipment



Contamination in Recyclable Material

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Additional Steps Taken to Improve Material Quality

- Processing lines slowed resulting in reduced throughput.
- Additional staff added to processing lines.
- Substantial reinvestment in MRF equipment upgrades to improve sort.



The cumulative result is an increased cost in recycling.

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Sustainable Solutions

- ▶ Recognize the Recycling Paradigm Shift
- ▶ Develop Closed Loop Domestic Markets
- ▶ Producer Packaging Responsibility
- ▶ Consistent Public Education

QUESTIONS

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