



SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
OF BROWARD COUNTY

Plan smart. Recycle more. Waste less.

MATERIALS RECOVERY CREATES LOCAL JOBS

1. Collection and Sorting

- **Recycling truck drivers and helpers** work on collection routes for solid waste, recyclables, organics, yard waste, and bulk waste.
- **Material Recovery Facility (MRF)** workers sort mixed recyclables into paper, plastics, and metals.
- **Equipment operators and maintenance staff** run balers, conveyors, shredders, and forklifts.

Example: Every new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) or expansion adds dozens of positions for line sorters, supervisors, and equipment technicians.

2. Processing and Refining

- **Composting and anaerobic digestion operators** handle food and yard waste conversion to soil amendments or biogas.
- **Plastics reclaimers, paper pulpers, glass crushers, and metal smelter operators.**
- **Quality control and logistics specialists** ensure processed materials meet specifications for resale.

Example: A regional organic processing facility can support 25 to 40 permanent operations and laboratory jobs.

Source: EPA 2020 REI Report

3. Manufacturing Using Recovered Materials

- **Recycled-content product manufacturers** turn recovered plastics into new packaging, metals into parts, glass into aggregate, paper into pulp.
- **Engineers and process managers** develop sustainable product lines using recycled feedstocks.
- **Machinists and line workers** are directly involved in production.

Example: A plant that uses recycled cardboard or metals can employ 100 to 200 people per facility.

Source: EPA 2020 REI Report



4. Transportation and Logistics

- **Truck drivers and dispatchers** move sorted materials to buyers and processors.
- **Warehouse and port handlers** stage bales for shipment or export.
- **Fleet maintenance** complete vehicle and equipment repairs.

Example: Reuse and resale markets rely on ongoing logistics chains, often local jobs.

5. Reuse, Repair, and Retail

- **Thrift store workers, furniture/appliance refurbishers, textile reprocessors.**
- **Entrepreneurs** in deconstruction, used-building-materials markets, and repair cooperatives.

Example: Reuse centers create high job density, 10 plus jobs per 1,000 tons diverted.

6. Planning, Research, and Education

- **Environmental engineers, sustainability analysts, and recycling coordinators.**
- **Public educators and outreach** teach “recycle right” habits.
- **Policy and compliance officers** manage recycling ordinances and data reporting.

Example: Each regional authority (like SWA), over time, could employ dozens of technical and outreach roles to keep diversion systems running efficiently.

Economic Multiplier

From the Authority’s financial framework:

For every 10 jobs created in traditional waste disposal, recycling and resource recovery create 25 to 30 jobs, because materials are handled, processed, and resold many times before their value is fully realized. Task 6 – Recommendations & Findings White Paper

According to the Solid Waste Authority’s Recommendations and Findings White Paper (Task 6), transitioning from traditional disposal to recycling and resource recovery creates substantial local employment opportunities. These positions range from collection and sorting crews to facility operators, maintenance technicians, and recycling coordinators, as new organics, C&D, and materials-recovery facilities come online. The Authority’s Financial Overview White Paper (Task 3) further highlights that investments in these diversion programs will “support expanded operations and staffing needs at processing and transfer facilities,” reinforcing the economic value of keeping recoverable materials circulating in Broward County’s economy. Additionally, job creation in this sector will create an improved environment and protect natural resources contributing to better quality of life for Broward residents and support increased tourism.