



## WELCOME TO THE MARIN SANITARY SERVICE VIRTUAL TOUR!

Below are instructions for a self-guided tour of our property, including the Marin Recycling Center, Transfer Station, Marin Resource Recovery Center, and our Flying Can Ranch.

As you follow the order of places by clicking on the menu at the left-hand side of the tour screen, look for little blue circles with the letter "i" in them. Clicking on these circles will open up an informational window and allow you to learn more about what you are looking at. There are also a few little blue circles with a question mark "?" inside of them - these mark the places where our recycled Tin Men are hiding on the property.

This is a self-guided tour, so feel free to look all around the facility - if you have any questions, you can email Casey Fritz, the Schools & Community Recycling Coordinator, at [casey.fritz@marinsanitary.com](mailto:casey.fritz@marinsanitary.com)

### **Stop 1: The Marin Recycling Center**

- Click on "Marin Recycling Center" from the main menu
  - The information tour card should automatically pop up for this stop, because it is our first one.
  - Feel free to look around at the machines, and use the arrows on the ground to move yourself. You can also scroll across by holding your mouse and moving it around on the screen - this tour has 360o views!
  - We will visit both the Buyback Center and Document Shredding later on in the tour, but you can scroll over to either of those options at the beginning if you would like to.
- **Stop 1.1: Blue Cart Paper Pre-Sort**
  - From the main menu, scroll over "Marin Recycling Center" and choose the first menu option that pops up, "Blue Cart Paper Pre-Sort"
  - The first "i" information stop is by the cardboard and paper material, which has been dropped off by the trucks and is awaiting sorting
  - If you click on the "right" arrow on the ground, you can scroll over and see the paper bales, and another information stop that explains what a bale is and what a baling machine does
- **Stop 1.2: Brown Cart Materials Pre-Sort**
  - This stop is short - this is what the "bottle and can" brown cart recycling looks like right after it is dropped off by our split trucks
  - Discussion question: Does it look like this pile is only "bottle and can" recycling? Remind yourself what should go in the brown cart. What do you see that shouldn't be there?
    - Follow up: How do you think we deal with items that are incorrectly placed in the recycling? Do you think it affects the recycling?

- **Stop 1.3: Paper Sort Line**

- Take a look around at our paper sorting lines, and click on the “i” to watch a video that shows them in action!
- Recall our follow up question above: if there are a lot of items in the recycling that do not belong there, and we have humans on the line pulling off the mistakes, what happens to the paper recycling?
  - If recycling is too contaminated, it can be rejected as not clean enough and wouldn’t be turned into a new paper product. Only by recycling correctly can we save resources.

- **Stop 1.4: Plastic/Aluminum Sort Line**

- Look for the “i” to learn about how we separate our bottle and can recycling
- Review Question: How do we use machines in the recycling process? How are humans involved in the recycling process?

- **Stop 1.5: Glass Recycling**

- Read the information blurb for glass
- Discussion question: Remember what glass is made of. Why is it important that we can recycle glass over and over again, infinitely? What are we saving by doing that?

- **Stop 1.6: Baled #1 PET Plastic Bottles & Aluminum Cans**

- There are two separate information stops for the plastic bottles and the aluminum cans, be sure to read both!
- Review Question: What is “downcycling”? Why is it important that materials like aluminum and glass can be recycled forever, while plastic is usually lucky to be recycled once?

- **Stop 1.7: Baled #2 HDPE Plastic Bottles & Jugs**

- Make sure to read the information stop
- Review Question: Do these two different types of plastics (PET and HDPE) usually get recycled into the same thing?

## **Stop 2: CRV Buyback Center**

- Pan over to the left, by where the desk sits outside the office. There you will find the information stop for the Buyback Center!
- Feel free to also look around and notice the machines we use for weighing the different materials that people bring to our center for recycling and redemption.

## **Stop 3: Document Shredding**

- Use the “forward” arrow to move closer to the document shredding truck, and to read the information stop!

## **Stop 4: MSS Collection Trucks**

- Read about our trucks, and then use the arrows to “walk” across our yard and get a closer look at them!

## **Stop 5: Transfer Station**

- Click first on the “Transfer Station” on the main menu bar. You will be standing outside of our transfer station building. To your left is the recycling center, and to your right is the Marin Resource Recovery Center.
- Read the information stop, which will prompt you to walk up the driveway.
- **Stop 5.1: Inside the Transfer Station**
  - From the main menu, hover over “Transfer Station” and choose the option to go inside the transfer station. Look for information stops in the “pit” where all of the garbage is.
    - There is a lot to learn in the pit – try to find all 4 information stops here!
  - If you turn around and face away from the pit, you will also see another informational stop about the large silver trucks parked along the back wall of the transfer station

**Stop 6: Commercial Food2Energy Program**

- Read about our Commercial Food2Energy (F2E) program
- Review Question: Our F2E program is different from our compost program; what do each of these programs create? How are they better than sending the material to landfill?

**Stop 7: Marin Resource Recovery Center**

- First, click on “Marin Resource Recovery Center” on the main menu. It will take you to the outside view of the MRRC – click on the information stop to the left (the one on the right is for Hazardous Waste, which we will get to later!) and read about Resource Recovery.
- **Stop 7.1: Inside the dump**
  - Click on the information stop and read about the Marin Resource Recovery Center
  - Look around the room and notice the machines, piles of different materials, and how things are being dropped off.
  - Discussion Question: Have you or a parent ever visited the dump? What was your experience like?
- **Stop 7.2: Free cardboard drop-off**
  - People can come here to drop off large amounts of cardboard for free!
- **Stop 7.3: Self-hauled landscaping materials**
  - Click on the information stop to learn about all of this plant material that we are keeping out of the landfill!
  - Review Question: What is “self-hauling”? What is biomass used for in this case?
- **Stop 7.4: Curbside green cart material**
  - This is our compost pile – all of the material here is only at our facility for 24-48 hours. We then use our processing equipment (which you will learn about next!) to break everything down further, and send it to a composter. All of this material will stay there in big piles for 2-3 months to be turned into compost, and then can be used to grow more plants!
    - Did you know: compost has many important nutrients in it, which means we can create healthy soil for growing plants without using harsh chemicals and fertilizers.
- **Stop 7.5: Organics processing equipment**
  - Read the information at this stop to learn more about the compost process! And feel free to use the arrows to explore the equipment further.
- **Stop 7.6: Contractor debris drop-off**
  - Here, learn about what kinds of drop-offs we get in the back of the building and the types of material we are recycling here. Remember that Resource Recovery in general handles very large amounts of materials, or materials that are very big, or both.
  - Feel free to navigate around this part of the floor to get closer to the big debris pile and the machines!
- **Stop 7.7: Debris processing**
  - Take a look at what has been dropped off for us to sort. In general, we will recover normal recyclables like bottles, cans, and cardboard, but we can also recover plant material, concrete, dirt, and rocks. We also accept mattresses, tires, and other construction and demolition materials. Not all of it can be recycled, but if we can recycle it then we will!
  - Discussion Question: What do you notice in the pile that you think will be recycled? What do you think cannot be recycled?
- **Stop 7.8: Paper processing equipment**
  - Read more at this stop about how we recover and process the paper and cardboard that comes into this building. Would you consider this a “normal” recyclable item, or something big and bulky?

**Stop 8: Concrete Recycling**

- At the back portion of our property, we have our concrete recycling – by capturing concrete from Resource Recovery, we can help this valuable resource to be used again in more buildings or roads, rather than wasted.

**Stop 9: Marin Household Hazardous Waste**

- Here you will learn more about “hazardous”, or dangerous waste. There are certain items like household cleaners, batteries, car oil, and certain lightbulbs that have materials in them that are dangerous to human or environmental health. For those items, we have to make sure we handle them with extra care and that they don't go in the trucks with everything else. That is why we have the hazardous waste facility!

**Stop 10: Flying Can Ranch**

- Welcome to the end of the tour! You have reached our Flying Can Ranch, where we have pigs, chickens, peacocks, and other smaller birds. Read about why we have all of these animals at the two information stops here.
- How many peacocks can you spot in the background here?

You've made it to the end of the tour! Take a minute to reflect here:

- Think about 2-3 things you learned while you were on the tour.
- Think about 1-2 behaviors you might want to change after what you have learned on the tour today.
- How will you add the 4 Rs into your daily life? Remember:
  - Reduce means to use less
  - Reuse means to use again
  - Recycle means to put paper and cardboard, and bottles and cans into your carts so we can help turn them into something new
  - Rot means to put all of your food waste, plant waste, and soiled unlined paper into the compost to create more plant food!