

TOUR OF THE CITY OF TUSCALOOSA'S RECYCLING CENTER

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA

Location: Richard A. Curry Environmental Services Building

Time: 10:00AM-11:30AM

Date: Thursday July 17, 2014

Present:

Tony Johnson- Executive Director of Logistics and Support Services

George Cook- Assistant, Logistics and Support Services

Kristina Hopton-Jones- Director of Dining Services, Auxiliary Services

Milo Crabtree- Associate Director of Procurement Services

April Sanders- Assistant Manager of Facilities Operations, Ferguson Center

Brandon Sevedge- Director of Athletics Facilities

Absent:

Greg McKelvey- Director of HVAC and Energy Management

Nancy Whittaker- Associate VP of Administration

Julie Shelton- Director of Financial Accounting and Reporting

Korey Kizziah- Warehouse Services Coordinator, Recycling and Logistics and Support Services

Kathleen Gillan- Director of Greek Affairs

Patrick Lang- Student Intern, Recycling Department

Matt Kerch- Director of Housing Operations

Tour of the City of Tuscaloosa's Recycling Center

Introduction and brief summary on the City's recycling building and introduced everyone:
Tony Johnson

Representatives of the City:

Shane Daugherty- Director of Environmental Services Department

Stacy Vaughn- Associate Director of Environmental Services Department

Notes:

1. Took a tour of the whole administrative building in the front of the complex.
2. All of the furniture built for the building was by the state at a total price of \$40,000. Each of the table tops in the offices are of recycled glass.
3. The whole complex cost over \$5,000,000 to build.
4. There are a total of 99 employees that work in the complex.
5. It was originally intended to house 3 divisions.
6. The city provides a once a week pickup for regular garbage and recycling.
7. The administrative building includes a multi-purpose room, training room, work room, break room, locker rooms for men and women, an exercise room plus a conference room.
8. The conference room table was made from a black cherry tree that fell during the April 27, 2011 tornado in the Highlands neighborhood around the back entrance.
9. A presentation was done by Stacy Vaughn the Associate Director of the ESD.
10. There are 15 locations now in the city and county to recycle.
11. The city's recycling operation started back in 2000 with only 2 drop off trailers and a curbside truck. Back then there were limited participants with limited materials.
12. The original mascot for recycling was "Chief Tuskaloosa" with his main message being to save the environment.

13. The program grew between 2000-2009 with added trailers and curbside routes when budget allowed.
14. The new recycling mascot, “Ricky the Recycling Raccoon” was introduced in 2005.
15. By 2008, the city offered curbside recycling to over 60% of the city’s residents.
16. In 2009, the city was awarded a \$280,000 grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. From the grant, the city purchased a baler and other equipment.
17. Began the operation in 2010 and had more control over what was to be recycled.
18. The whole building was destroyed by the EF4 tornado that hit Tuscaloosa back in April 27, 2011 and lost over 80% of the fleet. The city resumed picking up garbage the following Monday. Prior to the storm, garbage was collected 2 times a week.
19. Recycling collection by the city did not start back until May of 2012. There was a decision to go just picking up garbage once a week plus expand recycling to 100% of the residents and continue with sorting recycling at the curb.
20. There was restructuring of the department to accommodate the new collection system with added personnel to the recycling plant and created full time positions with other parts as well.
21. The whole Environmental Services Department moved back in March of 2014. The building meets LEEDS certification standards. The Recycling Plant has wide roof overhangs to shade the exterior walls. The roofs are colored white to significantly reduce the summer heat. The plant floors are of polished concrete to minimize the facility maintenance.
22. Environmental jobs are the #4 most dangerous jobs in the United States.
23. The city of Tuscaloosa recycles: cardboard, plastics #1 & #2, newspaper & magazines, aluminum, steel (tin) cans, plastic bags, office paper (all types) and electronics
24. To sort the recycling, the city has an (Eddy Current) machine made by Marathon which uses reverse polarity magnets to separate everything. The magnets pushes the material forward to where it needs to go.

Concluded the presentation by opening the floor for questions: Stacy Vaughn

25. The city has a contract to take their recycling to Waste Recycling, Inc. in Tuscaloosa. It is taken by a tractor trailer once the material crosses a yellow on the floor in the main building. Cardboard gets taken every 6 days. Newspaper once a week. Office Paper twice a month. Plastic every 6 weeks. Aluminum once every 6 months. Steel (tin) cans once a year.
26. The Recycling Plant has wide roof overhangs to shade the exterior walls. The roofs are colored white to significantly reduce the summer heat. The plant floors are of polished concrete to minimize the facility maintenance.

Concluded the tour and presentation at the Richard A. Curry Environmental Services Building:
Stacy Vaughn