

Smoke and Mirrors in Montgomery

The facts don't match the claims with Montgomery's new mixed waste processing facility

BASIC FACTS

"Dirty MRF" mixed waste processing facility opened April 14, 2014

- 25-year contract at fixed rate to the City of Montgomery
- \$35 million start-up costs

Advertised as processing 35 tons per day of mixed household trash from City of Montgomery

- Residents are asked to sort out certain waste such as kitty litter, dirty diapers, electronics, household hazardous waste and other products and leave these materials on the curb separately



Claims to be achieving a "60% diversion rate." Most cities define "diversion" as %recycling + % compost. Some cities include other quantities such as "alternative daily cover," i.e. material used to cover landfills

WHAT THEY DON'T TELL YOU

The organic composting and anaerobic digestion facility was neither permitted nor built when the facility started claiming 60% diversion

Recyclers who have toured the facility have noticed it is running much slower than 35 tons per hour — closer to 10 or 15 tons per hour

- Houston's "One Bin for All" is supposed to process 2,000 tons per day

The West Florida Recycling facility in Pensacola, FL has shut down and the Montgomery facility has been receiving pre-sorted, single-stream recycling from Florida

- The diversion rate for these materials would be higher than 60%, distorting the mixed trash diversion rate for non-separated materials from the City of Montgomery

According to the DC-based Paper Recycling Coalition, which opposes dirty MRFs and Houston's "One Bin for All" proposal, the recyclers purchasing Montgomery's paper have *rejected at least 10 shipments of paper for being too contaminated*

Unless we simply want to take company officials at their word, there is no direct, independent reporting to show that the Montgomery dirty MRF is achieving 60% diversion. In fact, all the available evidence points to far less.

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Questions:

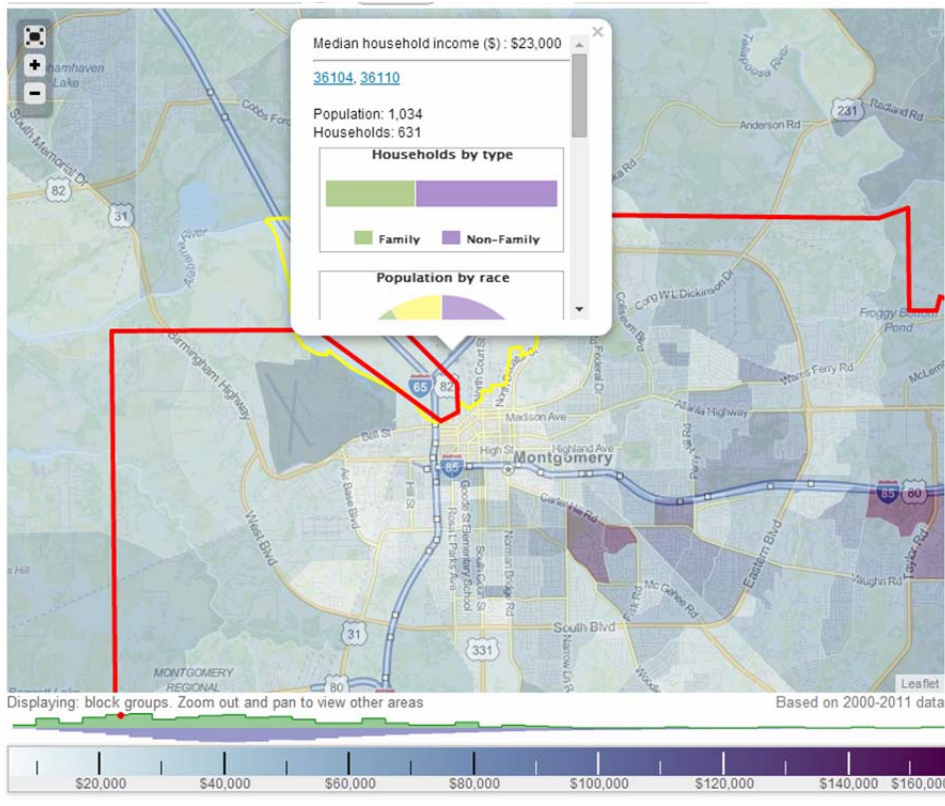
What is Montgomery's definition of "diversion?"

Where does the organic material go if it is not being composted or anaerobically digested?

What percent is being *recycled* if paper is being rejected?

“Trash to Fuel” Plan in Montgomery Will Threaten Environmental Justice Communities

Montgomery is **56.6 %** African American. However, **72 %** of the residents who live within a 2-mile radius of the brand new IREP (Infinitus Renewable Energy Park) dirty MRF one-bin facility in Montgomery are African American.¹



In addition, **35.6%** of residents in the two surrounding zip codes live below the poverty line, a majority of them females.

Zero Waste Energy LLC and Infinitus Energy, which run the plant in Montgomery, have plans to implement “engineered fuel,” in the near future.

“**Engineered fuel**” refers to

combusting trash that has been converted to gas either through catalytic conversion, pyrolysis or gasification – air polluting technologies that were also requested in the “One Bin for All” Request for Qualifications.

“Engineered fuel” may also refer to **Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)** where trash is converted into pellets and then burned as a substitute for coal. Clearly these phased incineration methods are NOT *recycling* and would create health risks for Montgomery residents.

Does Houston really want to be like Montgomery?

¹ <http://www.recyclingtoday.com/Infinitus-Energy-BHS-MRF-Montgomery.aspx>
<http://www.city-data.com/income/income-Montgomery-Alabama.html>