

FAQS FOR MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF)

1. What is a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)?

A materials recovery facility (MRF) is a specialized plant where waste is received, separated and prepared as recyclable materials for marketing.

2. What are the waste categories handled at MRFs?

- a) Wet waste (biodegradable waste- food and kitchen waste and Green waste paper)
- b) Dry Waste (Inorganic recyclable-Plastics, Paper, Glass and Metal)
- c) Hazardous Waste (E-Waste, Chemicals)

3. What are the types of MRFs?

- a) Manual MRFs – waste is sorted by hand.
- b) Semi-mechanized MRFs – a combination of manual and machine-assisted sorting.
- c) Mechanized MRFs – automated sorting using equipment like conveyors and magnetic separators.

4. Which are the Categories of MRFs?

MRFs are generally classified as either “clean” or “dirty,” depending on whether the facility handles materials that are mixed with other municipal waste.

- a) Clean MRF
A clean MRF takes in mixed recyclable materials that have been separated from municipal solid waste, by individuals, institutions or businesses.
- b) Dirty MRF

A dirty MRF takes in a broad stream of solid waste and separates out recyclable materials through manual and mechanical sorting.

5. What are the requirements for establishment of MRFs?

Critical considerations in the setup of an MRF will include:

- Land acquisition and Site development - Valid land ownership, minimum size 0.05 Ha, Proximity to residential/commercial premises, accessibility
- Facility construction-
- Equipment acquisition and training of operations personnel.

6. What are requirements for operationalization of MRFs

An MRF must:

- Undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Obtain an operation license from NEMA
- Comply with air and water quality regulations
- Implement occupational safety protocols

The operator of any MRF shall;

- i. Demonstrate to the regulatory agencies full compliance with sectoral laws including the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), 2007 provisions
- ii. Formulate Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and adhere to them
- iii. Train all staff
- iv. Provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- v. Carry out periodic Medical Examination for all staff
- vi. Maintain all equipment
- vii. Maintain high standards of housekeeping

7. Which is the reporting framework by MRF operators

Annual monitoring reports

The MRF operator shall monitor the Environmental Management Plan of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report and submit reports to NEMA in the form of an Environmental Audit.

8. How often should MRF report to NEMA?

All licensed MRFs must submit annual reports detailing quantities of waste received, processed, and dispatched, categorized by type.

9. What is the current Status of MRFs in Kenya?

Currently, a number of small scale Material transfer stations exist in various counties. Some of them include: Takataka solutions in Nairobi, Sergent Logistics in Kilifi, Taita Taveta MRF, Kisii County MRF at the Agricultural Training Centre among others.