



NEWSLETTER

RDS - VIRGINIA

**SERVING VIRGINIA'S
RECYCLING NEEDS SINCE
2004**

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COVID19 Industry & RDS Impacts

- The benefits of automation have been further: more robots allow for less employees in close quarters (easier to social distance) or exposed to materials that could carry the virus. Even when the pandemic subsides, the shift toward automation and reliance on technology will continue, which AMP Robotics is helping to lead.
- Increased residential volume from stay at home order, while commercial and industrial supply dropped off.
- Increase in corrugated cardboard from online shopping deliveries. More basic food packaging like tin cans have ended up in the stream with restaurant closures leading to more cooking and purchasing of nonperishables.
- Two COVID19 policies were put in place to address the increasing information learned about the virus. Requirements include sanitizing shared spaces, wearing gloves and masks as needed, and limiting the time and frequency of full staff meetings. We have also now purchased infrared thermometers to test employees for a fever before starting their shift and have written out instructions if someone on staff were to be exposed or contract the virus.
- Driver receipts have transitioned to email delivery to reduce exposure to others. Now instead of entering the facility, drivers can remain in their trucks and get their weights digitally – improving safety as well as efficiency by saving time.

Safety Program Revisions

Be on the look out for updated safety meeting information and opportunities. Management is improving the content such as first aid training and blood borne pathogen information to better equip employees with the skills and knowledge needed to properly address potentially emergency situations that could occur onsite. Feel free to reach out with input or questions regarding topics we cover, or you feel should be covered further! Your safety is our priority!

1. Several of our managers will be attending the upcoming VRA conference in late October pending COVID19 progression after being postponed from April. Stay tuned next edition for what is learned about all things recycling in these unprecedented times!
2. Huge thanks to Nikisha Strickland for stepping up as Scale Operator in the Korte office, you are doing a wonderful job in your new role and are so appreciated! We also send a thank you to Melissa Evans for being flexible by switching locations to Enon. Our employees have done a great job of responding to recent changes during these unprecedented times . You are so valued for the hard work you display daily. This goes for the plant staff enduring the record high temperatures lately as well. Make sure you're staying hydrated, cool and rested through these challenging summer months.
3. Shoutout to Billy Basham, Enon Plant Manager, for recently being appointed to the Virginia Recycling Association (VRA) Board of Directors! He will serve on the finance and membership committee. Billy has been an active member in the organization and working towards this goal for twelve years.
4. Be on the lookout for a steady increase of material intake as RDS continues to expand, now working with Newport News and Portsmouth to receive more volume. We are also entering into an agreement with Southern Shores in North Carolina as a partnership with Bay Disposal!
5. Your firsthand experience matters! Do you want to share proper recycling practices that would benefit our customers to know and in turn help clean up our material intake stream? Reach out to Lauren Cutlip regarding your advice.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Congrats on one (or more) years with RDS!

- 5/10 Shane Jones – 3 years
- 5/14 Melissa Evans – 2 years
- 5/15 Larry Brooks – 3 years
- 5/27 William Mabry – 1 year
- 6/05 Keith Schiebl – 14 years!!
- 6/19 Billy Basham – 3 years
- 6/16 Vu Pham – 5 years
- 7/09 Daniel Scott – 1 year
- 7/15 April Artis – 1 year
- 7/25 Jason Woods – 1 year

Happy Birthday!

- 6/08 – Stephen Wilson
- 7/2 – Larry Brooks
- 7/11 – Matthew Giggey
- 7/13 – Chavis Totten
- 7/23 – William Mabry



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