

Sonoco Recycling Charlotte to Become a Full-Scale Material Recovery Facility

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Charlotte, N.C., Upgrade Brings the Number of MRFs Owned by the Company to three

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Mar 16, 2010 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Work is underway to transition Sonoco Recycling, Inc.'s Charlotte Recycling Center into a full-scale material recovery facility (MRF) by early summer 2010. The \$2.6 million project will result in the Charlotte center, located at 3901 Barringer Drive, becoming the third MRF owned and operated by the Company in the Southeast. The others are located in Raleigh, N.C., and Columbia, S.C.

"We're adding high-tech equipment that will allow us to further grow our capacity and more effectively sort residential single-stream waste. Additions will include new sorting screens, separators, high-speed conveyors, steel disks and other state-of-the-art equipment," said Marcy Thompson, vice president and general manager, Sonoco Recycling, Inc. "While Mecklenburg County is already served by a materials recovery facility, the area needs a second MRF because of the tremendous growth throughout the region. These upgrades, along with the upgrades we completed last fall, better position us to meet the recycling needs of this growing market."

In November 2009, Sonoco Recycling completed a \$2 million expansion project at the Charlotte center. The project expanded the facility's footprint by 23,500 square feet and included the installation of new commercial sorting and baling equipment. In addition, the facility's outside space was redesigned to improve traffic flow.

Sonoco Recycling's Charlotte center accepts and processes corrugated boxes and other grades of paper as well as plastic and other materials. The facility accepts curbside material delivered by the public and offers flatbed pick up of baled material, and van pick up for loose, palletized or baled material. Sonoco, which processes and uses many of these recycled materials to produce recycled paperboard at its paper mills in the Southeast, then uses that paperboard to produce new consumer and industrial packaging, making Sonoco one of the few closed loop suppliers of packaging in the industry.

Sonoco Recycling is a leading recycler in North Carolina with nine locations. Annually, Sonoco collects and processes about 3 million tons of recyclable materials globally through 41 locations, and has a team of recycling professionals, many of whom are experts in waste management and manufacturing process improvement.

About Sonoco

Founded in 1899, Sonoco (NYSE: SON) is a \$3.6 billion global manufacturer of industrial and consumer products and provider of packaging services, with about 300 operations in 35 countries, serving customers in some 85 nations. Sonoco is a proud member of the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index (DJSI), a global composite index that recognizes leading global companies in terms of economic performance, environmental stewardship and social responsibility. Sonoco also has been ranked as one of the 100 greenest large companies in the United States in *Newsweek's* inaugural Green Rankings, which evaluated the country's 500 largest companies on their environmental performance, green policies and reputation. Sonoco, which was listed 94th, had the best ranking of any U.S.-based packaging company. For more information on the Company, visit our Web site at <http://www.sonoco.com/>.

SOURCE: Sonoco

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