



Mecklenburg Recycling EPA Grant & Innovation Barn

Solid Waste Management Program (LUESA)

CAROLINA RECYCLING
ASSOCIATION

JULY 20, 2023



Community Outreach & Recycling Education

Education is Critical for Recycling Success

Markets demand cleaner items

Contamination increases costs

Mecklenburg spends more than \$1.9M annually because of contamination



Some Background

- **Mecklenburg County does not “collect” residential materials – City and Towns do.**
- **Mecklenburg County owns the MRF, so we have a vested interest in the quality of collected recyclables.**
- **All residential materials go to Meck Co MRF.**
- **\$0 tip fee for Meck Co. residents – Availability Fee**
- **\$44.50/property per year. Projected +\$5 through ‘27**



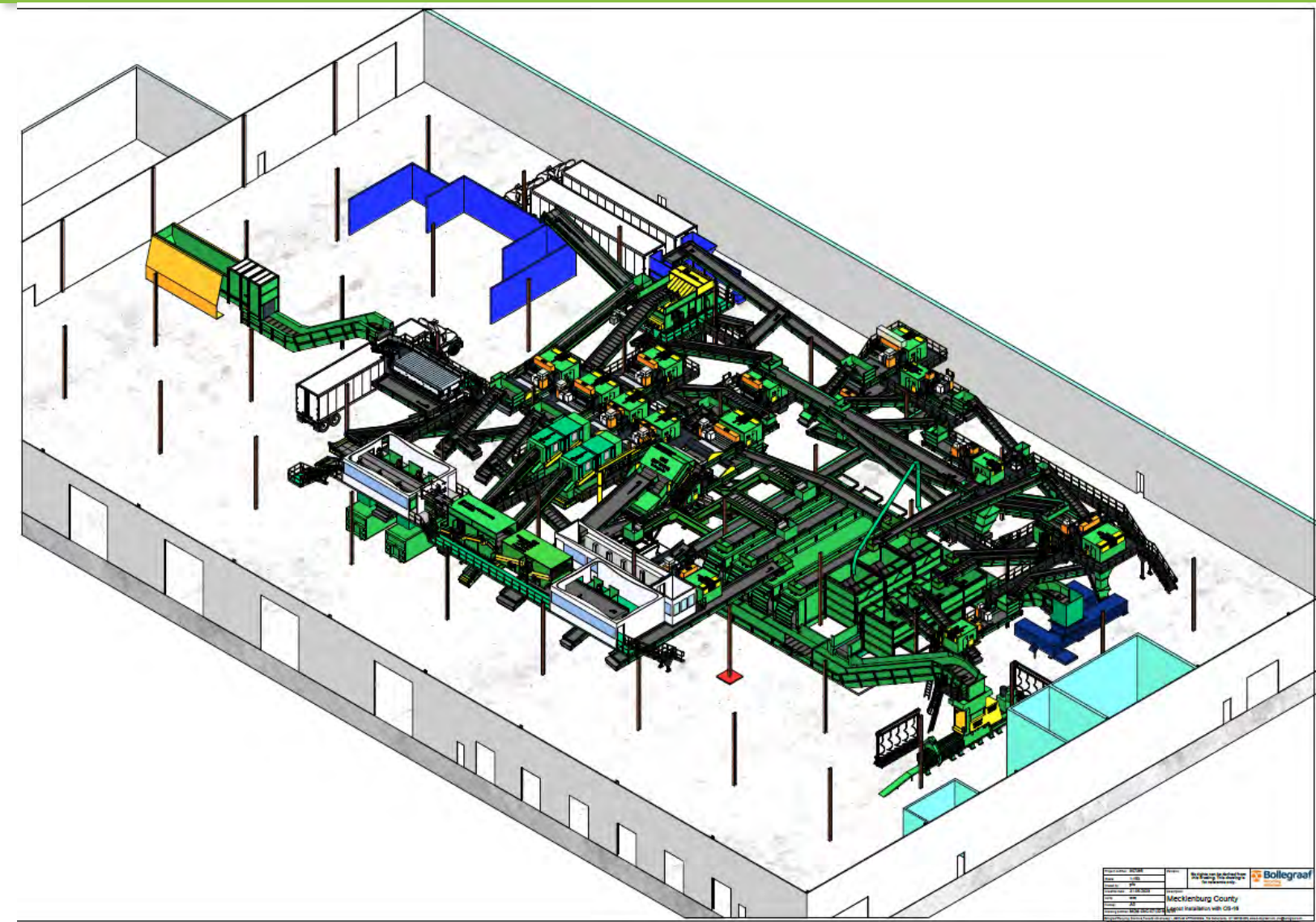
Capital Projects

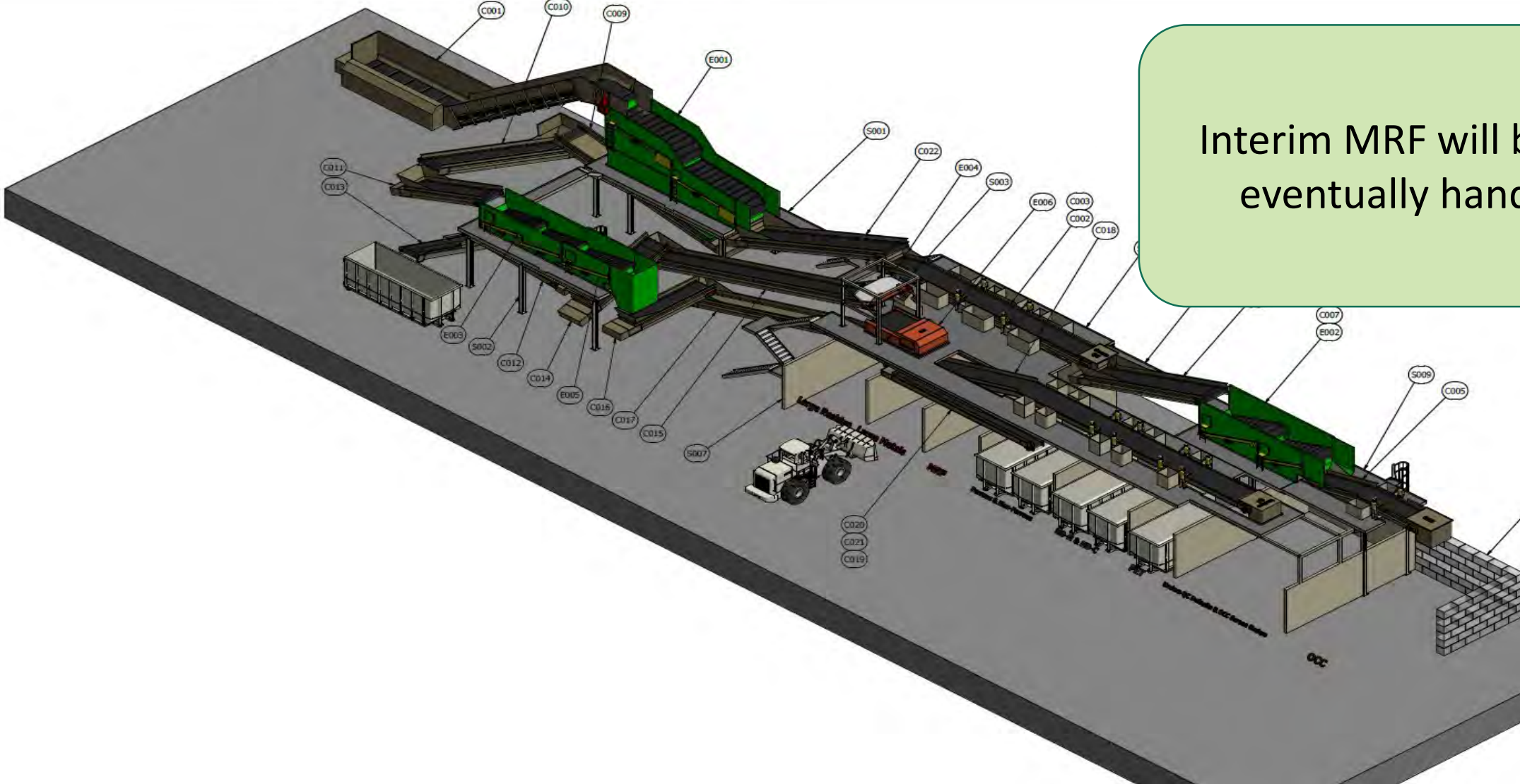
- **Mecklenburg County is in the process of rebuilding the “equipment” in the old MRF.**
- **\$27M process**

- **Also, will construct an Interim MRF at a new location that will eventually convert to a C&D MRF**
- **\$10M process**



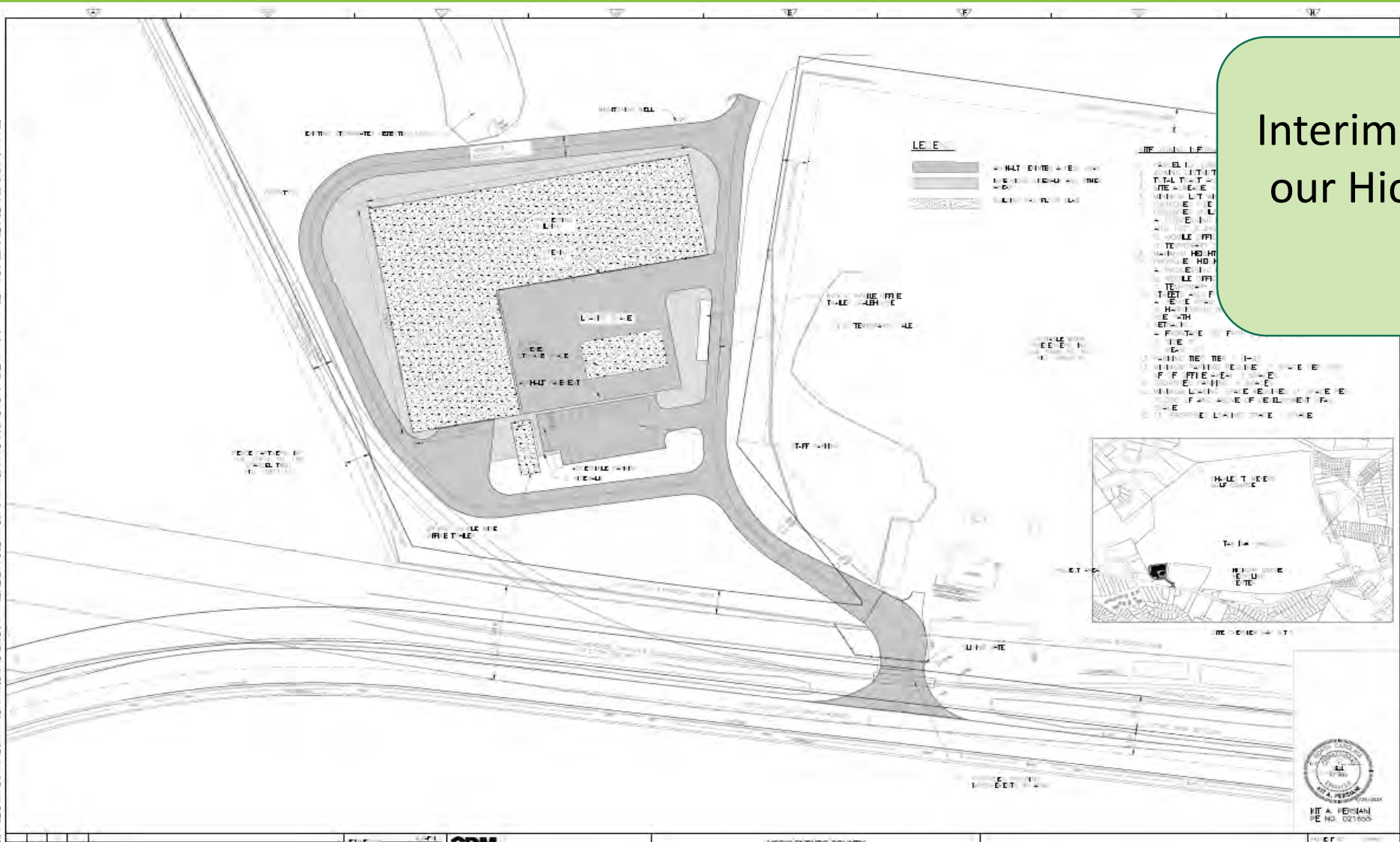
New MRF will be highly automated with 16 Optical Sorters





Interim MRF will be built to eventually handle C&D





Interim MRF will be built near our Hickory Grove Center on Pence Road



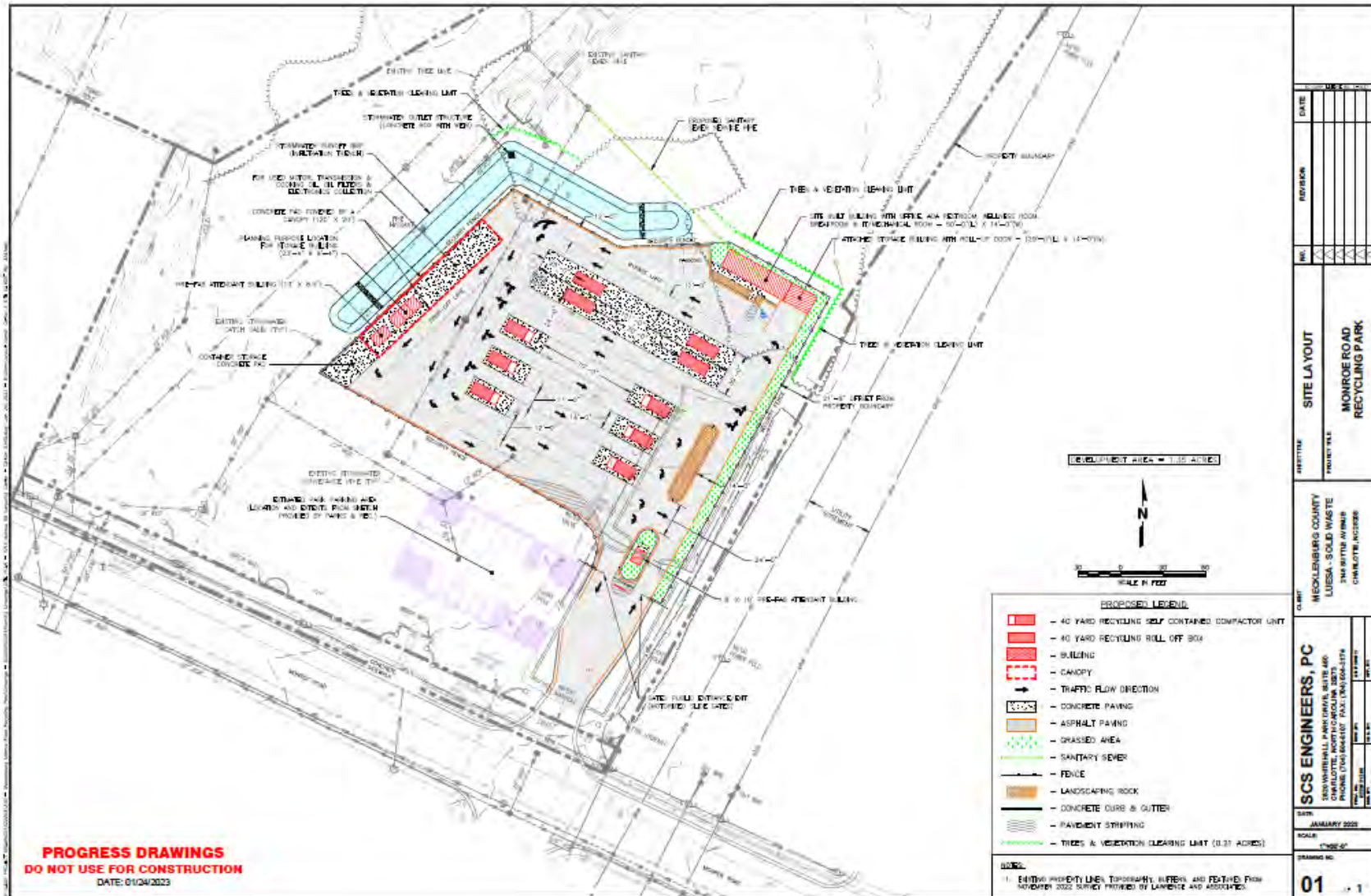
New Infrastructure Monroe Rd Recycle Park

In conjunction with Park and Rec, Solid Waste is partnering to build a 1.5 acre staffed center to accept recyclables within a larger park that has a “Recycling Theme”

Expected cost \$2.5M Recycle Center
Park is ARPA funded



Monroe Road Recycling Park



Small Staffed
Center

1.5 acres

Part of Larger Park

Solid Waste will
have 2-3 staff
here.

No money
accepted

Only Recycling
No trash



County Outreach

Current Recycling Outreach Consists of:

- **Billboard Adds**
- **Radio & TV Adds**
- **Print Media**
- **Soon to be “Cart Stickers”**
- **In-person events at Parks & Festivals**
- **Tours of MRF – Leads to the Innovation Barn**



Meck Solid Waste & Innovation Barn

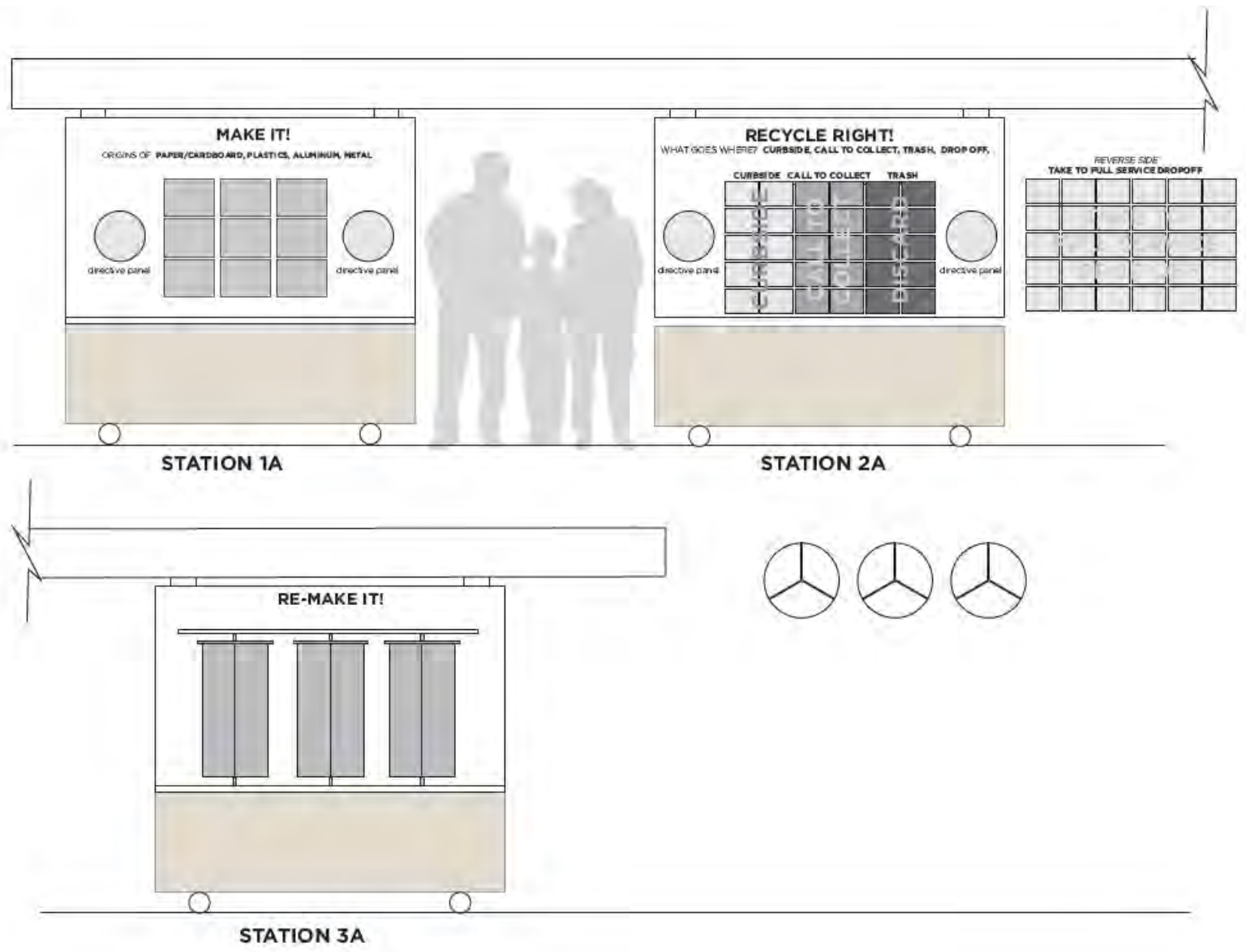


Meck & Innovation Barn

Last FY – Meck initiated a \$75,000 payment to initiate recycling education at the Innovation Barn.

County desires a partnership whereby the Barn becomes the hands-on education piece of our program.





Ongoing Planning for additions to the Innovation Barn

Part of the “first” phases.



Education and Outreach

RIO Grant US EPA



**Ongoing work at the \$75k level for FY23 and \$75k for FY24.
Grant submission: \$1.7M**

In conjunction with Innovation CLT, we are partnering to enhance the Innovation Barn to be a Recycling Learning Center.

- Our Community
 - CMS Schools
- Mobile Recycling Lab to travel to Underserved Communities



MICRO MRF

This exhibit will educate the visitor about the county's recycling program and the initiative to **Recycle Right**.



WONDER WALL & BALES – CHARLESTON COUNTY RECYCLING EDUCATION CENTER



INTERACTIVE & HANDS-ON COMPONENTS

For the experience to be engaging, educational and memorable, the exhibits must include opportunities for hands-on, tactile displays, well-designed graphics, and open ended activities.



EPA Grants & Education



EPA Recycling Grants

**Infrastructure – Monroe Road site
\$2.8M ask**

Education & Outreach \$1.7 ask

Two Separate Grants

**Both submitted on February 15,
2023**



This was our SWFr Grant Monroe Rd Recycle Park

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Expected cost \$2.5M Recycle Center
Park is ARPA funded



Partnerships

It is critical for our Solid Waste program to partner with others to ensure the success of Recycling and Sustainability for our Circular Economy.

County desires a partnership whereby the Barn becomes the hands-on education piece of our program.



Information

Contact us at:

SolidWaste@MeckNC.gov

Visit us at:

www.WipeOutWaste.com

www.MeckWoWAmbassador.com



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