

U.S. Postal Service Asheville Processing and Distribution Facility

Facility Description

The Asheville Processing and Distribution Facility of the U.S. Postal Service processes over 2 million pieces of mail each day and routes it to its destination. The facility employs 250 workers on the workroom floor and in the administrative offices.

Mail and catalog shipments enter the distribution facility on pallets inside cardboard gaylords, metal cages, or plastic containers. The mail and catalogs are placed on a conveyor system for sorting and grouped according to common destinations.

Reuse and Recycling Program



Asheville Waste Paper collects mixed paper, bottles, and cans.

The Asheville Processing and Distribution Facility also recycles plastic shrink wrap from the distribution facility, mixed paper from the administrative offices, bottles and cans from break rooms, and cardboard from throughout the facility.



Wood pallets set aside for recycling.

Continued on reverse.

Type of Facility:

U.S. mail processing and distribution facility



Recycles:

plastic shrinkwrap and strapping,
cardboard, pallets, mixed paper,
bottles and cans



Monthly Recycling Stats:

5.73 tons of cardboard
1.94 tons of pallets
262 pounds of shrinkwrap and strapping
840 pounds of mixed paper



Innovative Collection System for Shrinkwrap

The large volumes of catalogs that are shipped to the Asheville Processing and Distribution Facility by catalog companies are bound by plastic shrink wrap and strapping. Along the conveyor line, employees remove the plastic shrink wrap and place it into an opening underneath their sorting station. This opening is connected to an overhead piping system that vacuums the plastic shrinkwrap through the piping system and into a baler. The shrinkwrap and plastic strapping are baled together into small bundles. Potential contaminants to the shrink wrap bundles are rubber bands, string, paper, and labels. A trash can is placed next to each station so that employees can keep these out of the bales of plastic shrink and strapping. The bundles are taken to a trailer that is supplied by the shrinkwrap recycling vendor, Smokey Mountain Resource Recovery.



Contact Information

*Ken Singleton, Maintenance Manager
Asheville Processing and Distribution Facility
U.S. Postal Service
591 Brevard Rd.
Asheville, NC 28810
828-257-4144*



Waste Reduction Partners

Land-of-Sky Regional Council • Asheville, NC • Phone: 828-251-6622 • Email: wrp@landofsky.org • www.wastereductionpartners.org
Triangle J Council of Governments • Research Triangle Park, NC • Phone: 919-549-0551 • wrp@tjcog.org