



# Recycling Market Development Program Profile: Earth First Services

SEPTEMBER 2014

PROJECT PROFILE 2

## Program brief

### ➤ Company name/Location

**Earth First Services**  
4429 Allen Martin Drv.  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806  
Allen County

### ➤ Amount Funded

The company received a \$100,000 dollar grant from the RMDP in August 2012.

### ➤ Project summary

Earth First was building a recycling center that could also handle C&D wastes. The facility would offer services to the public and cover a 20,000 square foot area. Equipment requested included an elevated sort line, baler, fork lift and roll-off containers.

The company had requested \$200,000, but because overall program funding was limited to \$500,000, they received \$100,000. Their overall project investment was \$2 million.

## Earth First takes on C&D waste

Fort Wayne-based Earth First Services thought, if we build it, they will come...especially those who dealt with C&D (construction/demolition) wastes. So was born a materials recycling center. Their new 20,000 sq. ft. facility represented an investment of more than \$2 million dollars and created 15 new jobs to expand markets in Northeast Indiana and open its services to the general public. The Recycling Market Development Program provided funding toward equipment, including an elevated sort line.

The new recycling center addressed growing regional and national demands for the reuse and recycling of a large number of materials, particularly involving LEED projects, most of which would otherwise go into nearby landfills. These materials include brick, concrete, drywall, wood, shingles, cardboard, plastics, metals and paper.

Earth First projected diversion rates at about 19,000 tons of material per year; the energy savings estimated to be 107,494 MM Btus according to U.S. EPA's Warm Model calculations.

Another unique aspect to Earth First includes its involvement in local sustainability efforts. The company has implemented unique recycling/reuse streams for materials such as grinding drywall to be spread across farm fields to augment soil properties, wood to be used in the creation of animal bedding, and shingles to be ground and reused in new asphalt paving. The company accepts its environmental responsibility and works closely with area residents as well as businesses.

