

# RECYCLEFORCE



## COMPANY NAME/ LOCATION

Workforce Inc.: RecycleForce  
816 N Sherman Dr Indianapolis, IN 46201

## AMOUNT FUNDED

RecycleForce received \$87,500 from RMDP in August of 2023 towards the purchase of a polystyrene compactor, three vertical balers, thirty steel hoppers, and paid educational tv, radio, signage, and marketing materials to help establish and support a Recycling Hub at a new facility. They matched the amount the grant awarded to fund the project, which brought the total to more than \$175,000.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

This project was one part of RecycleForce's main project: establishing a new facility to serve as a recycling hub in Indianapolis. While being an electronic waste recycling facility, RecycleForce used the RMDP grant money to expand their services. This equipment, including a Styrofoam compactor, three vertical balers, and 30 hoppers, allowed RecycleForce to expand their business and recycle materials like Styrofoam that are not accepted at general recycling facilities across Indiana. The increase in machinery has led to two additional staff being hired, and a prospective 11 staff members in total will be working in the baling and Styrofoam departments.

## STYROFOAM RECYCLING IS BACK IN INDY

RecycleForce is an Indianapolis based nonprofit that primarily recycles E-waste. They deconstruct the items they receive and sell the metal to pay previously incarcerated individuals for job training programs and employment opportunities at the facility. In 2023, RecycleForce was moving to a new location on Sherman Drive and wanted to create a Recycling Hub to accommodate cardboard, plastic, and Styrofoam that was also being brought in by customers.



With new equipment purchased with the RMDP grant, RecycleForce vastly expanded their ability to take cardboard, plastic, glass, and Styrofoam because of the machines' ability to tightly compact materials to take up less space. In the first 30 days of operation, the new machines recycled 50,000 lbs. of cardboard, 40,000 lbs. of plastic, and 600 lbs. of Styrofoam. The balers alone increased the weight of cardboard recycled by 39% and plastic by 29%.

Two major successes came from this upgrade. One starts with the fact that recycling outlets for Styrofoam became unavailable in Indiana in 2021. The addition of the Styrofoam compactor gives Indianapolis residents a unique opportunity to take their Styrofoam out of the trash and out of the landfill. The other is RecycleForce's partnership with a recycling company called Brightmark. RecycleForce collects moldable plastics like PET and sends them to Brightmark, where they turn them into PyOil, as feedstock for downstream refining into new products. These innovative recycling practices exemplify RecycleForce's dedication to serving the Indy community with their employment efforts and recycling solutions.