Project Purpose:

The Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) will educate and provide ongoing and expanding opportunities for the Mat-Su Borough community to recover resources from the MSB waste stream thereby extending the life of the MSB Central Landfill and providing feedstock and opportunities for local jobs and economic development.

Project Description:

Maintain and expand recycling opportunities. Increase awareness of existing recycling programs
- Maintain 5 days per week recycling drop off opportunities for residents
- Maintain 5 day per week recycling drop off opportunities for businesses and agencies.
- Provide and coordinate infrastructure, volunteers, and oversight for recovering recyclables at the Alaska State Fair in Palmer
- Provide and coordinate volunteers and logistics for recovering recyclables at the Mat-Su Home Show
- Collaborate with MSB cities and communities to include recycling in their clean-up efforts
- Work with recycling pick up businesses to improve and expand customer base
- Work with waste haulers to offer recycling opportunities, especially cardboard to their residential and business customers
- Collaborate with MSSD to include recycling in their waste management plan districtwide

Education Information and Outreach on the benefits of reducing waste by recycling.
- Develop educational materials on the benefits of recycling and the nuts and bolts of how to incorporate recycling into daily waste management practices
- Provide outreach to residents, business owners and institution administrators (including schools) in the MSB on what is recoverable from their unique waste streams and the impact of resource recovery on the borough wide waste management
- Provide educational flyers to residents, business owners and institution administrators (including schools) on the proper procedures for sorting and delivering materials to the Community Recycling Center. Get inserts in utility bills about recycling opportunities.
- Provide 4th to 8th grade recycling curriculum kit for MSB students
- Schedule & host fieldtrips of the recycling center for interested groups
- Work with State wide recycling organization to expand opportunities to recycle through collective collaboration
- Partner with MSB, UAA, Mat-Su College, Mat-Su School District, and Alaska Job Corps on education and research and development opportunities to recover resources and reduce the waste stream.

Increase the volume of material collected. Increase revenue received from materials
- Collaborate with MSB cities and communities to include recycling in their waste management plans
- Work with large waste generators, commercial businesses to help them reduce their waste through recycling
  - Look at their waste streams to identify large volume items and then look for recycling markets for those items.
- Develop dependable supply of quality feedstock of recovered resources for local economic development
- Cultivate partnerships/relationships with major transporters
- Collaborate/Partner with the MSB Public Works Department on programs to reduce waste/increase recycling
- Research Potential for Diversion Opportunities in our community