



Department of
**Environment &
Conservation**



Marathon Petroleum Company

Nashville, Tennessee - Bordeaux Terminal

Marathon Petroleum Company's Bordeaux Terminal receives, custom blends, and distributes a variety of fuels by over-the-road transport, pipeline, and inland-waterway barges.

Marathon Petroleum was originally founded as the Ohio Oil Company in 1887. After a number of joint ventures and acquisitions, in 1930, Ohio Oil purchased Transcontinental Oil. Transcontinental Oil marketed gasoline under the trademark Marathon, along with the Pheidippides trademark and slogan "Best in the Long Run" beginning in 1920. In 1952, Marathon purchased the Bordeaux Terminal from Republic Oil.

The Bordeaux Terminal consists of 16 tanks on 11 acres of riverfront property in Downtown Nashville. Marathon Petroleum receives, blends, and distributes the following products from the terminal: various gasoline blends, ethanol, kerosene, diesel, and additives. Clients submit an order and send a tanker truck to the terminal, where the orders are mixed to specification and pumped into the trucks. The Bordeaux Terminal has perfected this blending and filling process by implementing environmental and safety initiatives into their standard operating procedures.

A Vapor Recovery Unit (VRU) is one example of the technology they are using to reduce pollution and potential hazardous releases. VRU systems are composed of carbon vessels, vacuum pumps, and an absorber tower, with the main purpose of recovering vapors captured during the loading process.

If you have ever seen trucks refueling a gas station, there are two lines that are attached from the truck to the underground storage tanks; one to fill the tank with liquid gasoline and one to empty it of its volatile vapors. When trucks return to the terminal, the VRU receives the vapors from the trucks during the



- Established 1952
- Employs 22+
- Member since 2017



loading process. Marathon Petroleum also works with oil recycling facilities to recycle all of its soiled rags, absorbents, and petroleum contact water.

Previously, the VRU system would run continuously; however, since September, the Bordeaux Terminal began using a smart-start system to ensure the machinery only runs when it is needed. This updated technology has reduced over 140 megawatt hours of energy use in just two short

months. The terminal also plays an important role in providing energy resilience for the state; having the capability to receive petroleum products from a variety of sources is crucial to a diverse infrastructure that isn't as susceptible to disruptions caused by natural disasters. If a natural disaster hit the Southeastern United States, having multiple options for petroleum transportation, including pipeline and barge, helps to insulate the Middle Tennessee area from petroleum supply interruptions.



To top it all off, the team members of the terminal spend extra time volunteering and helping the community. Just this year, they have volunteered their time to support the Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville, preparing and sorting food; participated in Wildlife Habitat cleanup day, where they planted pollinator friendly plants and set two bee hives; and participated in the Hurricane Florence Response Team, where 17 employees sorted, loaded and packed trucks with materials and supplies that were sent to support hurricane victims.

Although the terminal works hard to recycle everything they can, there are still hard-to-recycle items created in every manufacturing process. It is currently looking for a way to recycle its sandblast media that is generated from the cleaning of the tanks, and have listed it on the [Tennessee Materials Marketplace](#), which is a collaboration between industries, facilitated by an interactive online materials exchange, to recycle, repurpose, and return material discards back to Tennessee's economy. The Bordeaux Terminal learned of the marketplace initiative through its membership in the Tennessee Green Star Partnership.

The [Tennessee Green Star Partnership](#) is a voluntary environmental leadership program designed to recognize industries in the state that are committed to sustainable practices. If you are interested in joining Marathon Petroleum Company's Bordeaux Terminal and other sustainable industries in Tennessee by becoming a member, please contact us.