

MRF of the Month

Great Lakes International Recycling

Great Lakes International Recycling's MRF in Roseville, Michigan handles recyclables generated by the Detroit metropolitan area, including the Motor City's Northeast suburbs. The 12-acre Roseville campus also is GLR's corporate headquarters.

One of the largest fiber processors in the Midwest, in terms of volume, and one of the few single-stream MRFs in the region, the full-service recycling company processes material on behalf of several Waste Management, Inc. contracts, too. The facility accepts a broad range of materials, from such common curbside recyclables as newspaper, magazines, aluminum and tin cans, and plastics, to more typical drop-off items, including pot and pans, vacuum cleaners, fans, blenders and mixers, alarm clocks, aluminum siding, gutters and roof vents, wheel rims, plumbing fixtures and car transmissions, just to name a few.

The waste stream is made up of 25-percent residential and 75-percent commercial materials, with the commercial stream comprised mainly of fiber and the residential stream consisting of recyclables collected via single-stream. The commercially-generated fiber stream breaks down to an average of about 33-percent ONP, 33-percent OCC and 30-percent high-grade office paper – all collected curbside.

The 200,000-square-foot MRF operates six days per week, and all 200 employees on site – including 65 sorters – work under one shift. Equipment utilized at the facility includes: Bollegraaf, Harris Waste Management Group and Mosley horizontal balers; Hustler Conveyor Co. conveyor systems; General Kinematics vibratory and vibrating systems; and, a CP Manufacturing, Inc. sorting system.

Altogether, the 12-acre campus consists of 10 separate buildings, most of which are intended for collection and processing purposes. For example, commercial paper and municipal recyclables are handled within a 70,000-square-foot structure, using an automated separation and baling system, while a 2,500-square-foot building is utilized to sort, separate and dismantle all metals collected. Additionally, a 10,000-square-foot facility houses processes for wire and electronics recycling. The company recently partnered with Canadian e-scrap processor GEEP to form GEEP Michigan.

Services at the plant include on-site sorting of paper, metal, electronics, plastics and expanded polystyrene through GLR's commercial division, as well as office paper recycling through its Corporate Office Recycling Program. The GLR Corporate Office Recycling Program provides commercial businesses with all the necessities to integrate recycling into the office culture, with all paper grades accepted by the program. Moreover, the 12-acre Roseville campus includes two public drop offs – the Metal Zone and the Recycling Zone – which accept any range of metal, paper and plastic.

In addition to the Roseville facility, Great Lakes International Recycling also operates a multi-material MRF in North Tonawanda, New York, a commercial paper facility in Downriver, Michigan and a paper/cardboard plant in Flint Township, Michigan, which just opened this past September.

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Technical Specifications*

Great Lakes International Recycling

Location:

Roseville, Michigan
Multi-material MRF

Start-up Date:

1927 (company began as a small metal, paper and rag recovery operation in Detroit before moving to current location)

Number of Processing Lines:

Four

Throughput:

Tons per day: 525
Tons per year: 175,000

Average tons of material processed per day:

Fiber: 472.50
Plastics: 5.25
Metal: 36.75
Glass: 10.50
Total commingled containers: 52.50

Residue level: 10 percent

2007-2008 Materials Processing and Recycling in the United States: Yearbook and Directory

5th Edition — Print or CD-ROM

The 1,300 page Yearbook is the only comprehensive guide to Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in the United States, providing information on 583 operating, planned and shut projects. A nationally recognized resource, it provides a strategic analysis of the post-consumer recycling industry and a database of U.S. Material Recovery Facilities. It is an invaluable reference tool for solid waste decision makers, planners, consultants, and organizations interested in the present and future of recycling.

Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc.

203.226.3238 • 203.226.3239 (fax) • gaa@governmentaladvisory.com • www.governmentaladvisory.com

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