

MRF of the Month



Technical Specifications*

The Recycling Foundation Baton Rouge Facility

In the land of tigers, located off Airline Highway in the capital city of Baton Rouge, sits one of only two MRFs processing commingled recyclables (Pratt Industries operates the other single-stream plant upstate in Shreveport) in the State of Louisiana.

Owned and operated by The Recycling Foundation, a family-held business that has served the local region for over four decades. The firm's 25,500-square-foot facility processes material on behalf of more than 120,000 residences located throughout Baton Rouge, as well as in the cities of Carencro, Hammond, Lafayette, Ponchatoula, Youngsville and Zachary. In addition to unincorporated portions of East Baton Rouge Parish, the single-stream plant also handles a detectable amount of material coming from the New Orleans area. And, the Baton Rouge facility processes material on behalf of more than 500 businesses in the aforementioned areas, too, though only 25 percent of all that's processed can be attributed to the local commercial sector.

The MRF came on-line in 2005 as a multi-material processing center, but was upgraded to a single-stream approach with Baton Rouge's conversion to commingled collection in early 2006.

The facility operates one processing line, designed by Bollegraaf Recycling Machinery, to handle a throughput of up to 18 tons per hour; however, in order to ensure adequate quality control, the installation is typically ran at an average of 14-to-15 tons per hour, processing around 100 tons per day. The plant's average residue rate is approximately five percent.

Fiber makes up a majority of what's processed at the Baton Rouge MRF (over 75 percent), with the end-product being marketed to the likes of AbitibiBowater Inc. (old newspaper and mixed office) and Weyerhaeuser (old corrugated cardboard). Plastic, steel and aluminum containers are marketed to the likes of KW Plastics, Mohawk Industries, Inc. and Anheuser Busch Co., as well as others, while glass processed at the facility typically ends up as local construction aggregate.

The Recycling Foundation's Baton Rouge recycling facility employs a staff of approximately 25, all of which work under one shift, five days per week.

*Know of a North American MRF you feel Resource Recycling readers should know about? If so, e-mail your recommendation, with hi-resolution pictures, to justin@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future "MRF of the Month" column.

The Recycling Foundation Baton Rouge Facility

Location:

Baton Rouge, LA

Start-up date:

2005; switching to single-stream processing in 2006

Number of processing lines:

One single-stream line

Throughput:

18 tons per hour

**Average tons of material
processed annually:**

25,000 tons

Waste stream characteristics:

Residential: 75 percent

Commercial: 25 percent

Fiber: 75 percent

Commingled containers: 25 percent (with glass nearly 12 percent of that volume)

Residue rate:

Approximately five percent

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