

MRF of the Month

Somerset County Recycling Center

Opened in 1993, the Somerset County Recycling Center is owned and operated by the Somerset County Public Works Recycling Division, and is located on the outskirts of Bridgewater, New Jersey. The multi-material MRF handles 100-percent residential material, processing recyclables on behalf of 104,000 households situated



within the county's 21 municipalities. All materials are recovered curbside via semi-automated collection. The MRF also offers drop-off options for such commodities as textiles, tires and consumer electronics, as part of the county's 'First Saturday of the Month' program.

The facility processes an abundance of recyclables; however, almost 60 percent of the material handled by the recycling center is old corrugated cardboard and old newspaper. And, with the turn of the year, the county expanded its operations to also accept such chipboard items as cereal, pasta, cake, cookie, cracker, tissue, detergent, gift, shoe, shirt and retail boxes, poster board and the backing of writing pads. Additionally, a process that has occurred since the first day of business, all grade 8 paper recovered is pushed loosely into parked 40-foot containers and transported to an off-site location for processing.

The Somerset County Recycling Center isn't huge, only 18,000 square feet, but it does employ 53 workers, all of which work under one shift, five days per week, 250 days a year. With two processing lines and three sorting stations, the MRF's 25 full-time sorters separate material at an average of three tons, per individual, per day. RRT Design & Construction manufactured the major forms of equipment used in the plant.

According to Melissa Harvey, recycling coordinator with the Somerset County Division of Solid Waste Management, lack of adequate space and broken glass contamination are currently two of the biggest issues being dealt with by the facility.

All revenue generated by the MRF is allocated to the county's general fund.

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Technical Specifications*

Somerset County Recycling Center

Location:

Bridgewater, New Jersey
Multi-Material MRF

Start-up Date:

1993

Number of Processing Lines:

Two

Throughput:

Tons per day: 135-150

Tons per year: 33,981 (2008)

Average tons of material processed per day:

Fiber: 100

Plastics: 6.7

Metal: 7.80

Glass: 35.50

Total commingled
containers: 50

Residue level:

Six 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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