

# MRF of the Month

## Greenstar Des Moines

Located in Des Moines' Chesterfield Neighborhood, just down the street from the Iowa State Fairgrounds, sits the largest recycling facility operating in the Hawkeye State.

Owned and operated by Greenstar North America, the 80,000-square-foot facility consists of a multi-material recycling plant, glass processing facility and equipment development and manufacturing shop, and offers on- and off-site secure multimedia destruction services.

The single-stream MRF holds residential and commercial contracts with both the City of Des Moines and the Metro Waste Authority, an independent government agency made up of 22 participating greater Des Moines metro area communities, and provides services to customers throughout Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Missouri, too.

The recycling facility came on-line New Years Day 2010 and consists of two processing lines (fiber and commingled containers) handling a materials throughput of up to 140 tons per day. According to Greenstar Des Moines General Manager Kelley McReynolds, 87 percent of what's handled is attributed to fiber, with commingled containers making up the remaining 13 percent. "The fact that Iowa is a bottle bill state keeps our stream very fiber rich," said McReynolds. It should be noted that Greenstar is also the largest deposit container processor in Iowa.

In 2010, the Greenstar MRF processed over 33,000 tons of single-stream material, though McReynolds noted the facility's capacity is more than double that number. "Eventually, we expect to fill the remaining capacity with commercial single-stream business and other cities and municipalities throughout the state of Iowa," says McReynolds.

Greenstar was designed to allow for best-in-class component utilization. With an installation that consists of CP Manufacturing, Machinex and Lubo USA recycling equipment, "our in-company engineering and

manufacturing group internalized installation, so that we could incorporate best in-class components from the following system manufacturers," says McReynolds. Greenstar also outsourced software to a local firm.

The plant is currently producing a residue rate of 4.2 percent, and McReynolds noted the biggest contamination issues being faced at the facility include those involving plastic bags, ceramic glass, clothing and, at this time of year, Christmas lights.

The Greenstar recycling facility employs 22 on the single-stream system, running one nine-hour shift five days per week.

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

### 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.

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## Technical Specifications\*

### Greenstar Des Moines

#### Location:

Des Moines, Iowa

#### Start-up date:

January 1, 2010

#### Number of processing lines:

Two

#### Throughput:

140 tons per day

#### Tons of material processed in 2010:

Approximately 33,000 tons

Fiber: 28,710

Commingled containers: 4,290

#### Residue rate:

4.2 percent

