

MRF of the Month

SP Recycling Corp.

The 70,000-square-foot SPRC Tacoma MRF in Frederickson, Washington is owned and operated by Atlanta-based SP Recycling Corp. Opened in April 2007, the facility was developed through a partnership with Harold Lemay Enterprises, Inc., the local waste management company that managed the area's original multi-material MRF in conjunction with Pierce County's previous three-bin



collection program. Pierce County converted to single-stream service in 2006 after 14 years under a three-bin system. Since the conversion to single-stream collection, the county has witnessed a 64-percent increase in residential recycling tonnage, with the average household placing curbside nearly 45 pounds of materials per month.

Touted as one of the largest and most efficient single-stream processing facilities west of the Mississippi, SPRC Tacoma

processes recyclables generated throughout the greater Puget



Sound area, with all material collected via five hauling firms. Designed specifically to handle single-stream material, including glass, the facility accepts mainly residential curbside material, but does process some commingled and source-separated commercial recyclables, too. Altogether, SPRC Tacoma has the capabilities to process incoming material at 40 tons per hour, with fiber material accounting for almost 75 percent of the recyclables processed annually by the MRF.

SPRC Tacoma is outfitted with processing equipment, and optical sorting units, designed and installed by CP Manufacturing, Inc. This includes one high-speed triple-deck OCC sorting screen, two high-speed double-deck news screens and two high-speed polishing/container screens. According to SP's NW procurement and marketing manager, Chris Thomas, the plant's automated glass separation process allows glass and fines to be removed at four different locations throughout the system, producing top-quality fiber products. Plastics are graded using a state-of-the-art optical sorting system designed by MSS, Inc. And, though the MRF does not accept non-bottle rigid plastics or plastic film materials, the presence of plastics bags, non-program plastic products and medical waste (i.e., sharps) in the incoming stream represents the biggest operational challenges currently facing the plant.

Currently, the staff of SPRC Tacoma consists of 80 employees, all of which work under one of two shifts, five days per week.

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Technical Specifications*

SP Recycling Corp. (SPRC Tacoma)

Location:

Frederickson, Washington
Multi-Material MRF

Start-up Date:

2007 (as a single-stream MRF)

Number of Processing Lines:

One

Throughput:

Tons per day: 498

Tons per year: 130,000 (2008)

Average tons of material processed per day:

Fiber: 96,200

Plastics: 6,500

Metal: 3,900

Glass: 15,600

Total commingled
containers: 50

Residue level:

Four percent (2008)

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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