

# MRF of the Month

## Waste Management of Utah – Salt Lake MRF



In the Salt Lake City suburb of West Jordan sits the largest materials recycling facility serving the Beehive State. Operated by Waste Management of Utah (WMU), the Salt Lake MRF origi-

nally opened in spring 1995 as a multi-stream

plant, but was converted in 2003 for single-stream processing.

The facility handles curbside material on behalf of 84,000 households located within the municipalities of Murray, Riverdale, Salt Lake City, Sandy, West Valley, as well as areas around West Jordan and southern portions of Salt Lake Valley – a majority of the households served are through municipal contracts. WMU also has a strong in-state commercial single-stream business, with all recyclables being collected using a front-end loader.

The 25,000-square-foot MRF operates one processing line, producing an average daily throughput of 120 tons. However, according to Susan Hayward, communications representative for Waste Management of Utah, the Salt Lake MRF is flexible with incoming volumes, as plant operators will adjust schedules and shifts to accommodate the amount of material it receives daily. The plant includes a 10,000-square-foot storage area for bales, too.

The Salt Lake MRF processed approximately 46,000 tons of recyclables in 2009, with almost 84 percent of that material (38,500 tons) being fiber-related material and commingled recyclables making up the rest. Presently, the facility is producing around a 20-percent residue rate; however, according to Hayward, WMU officials are working local municipalities on a marketing campaign to assist them in getting cleaner materials, in order for the Salt Lake MRF to meet its residue rate goal of six percent to seven percent.

Hayward states the most onerous of issues for the facility is dealing with contamination from plastic bags and VCR tape, both of which wrap around machinery and lead to a considerable loss of productivity and facility downtime.

The Salt Lake MRF employs 52 people, all of which work under one shift: Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. MRF personnel will also provide facility tours, when possible.

\*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.



## Technical Specifications\*

### Waste Management of Utah – Salt Lake MRF

#### Location:

West Jordan, Utah

#### Start-up date:

May 1995 (converted to single-stream in 2003)

#### Number of processing lines:

One

#### Throughput:

Approximate tons per day:  
120

#### Approximate tons of material processed (2009):

46,000

Fiber: 38,500  
Commingled: 3,500

#### Residue rate: 20 percent

(WM's goal for the MRF is six percent to seven 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.

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