

MRF of the Month

Eagle County Materials Recovery Facility

Serving three different counties (Eagle, Pitkin, and Garfield) nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, the Eagle County Materials Recovery Facility is a dual-stream plant handling recyclable materials for an area famous for skiing, mountaineering and other high-altitude



activities.

Owned and operated by Eagle County Government, the facility was built to help alleviate proximity issues for area haulers, who previously had to move materials hundreds of miles to the closest MRF, making some of the regional recycling programs prohibitively expensive to operate.

The 14,000-square-foot facility, which opened in January 2010, is fed by dual-stream curbside programs from throughout Eagle County, all of which are served by private haulers. In addition, the Eagle County Solid Waste and Recycling department manages five drop-off centers for area residents that do not have curbside pick-up, including those who live in

multi-family dwellings.

In 2010, the plant processed approximately 3,500 tons of commingled recyclables and 2,500 tons of mixed paper and cardboard. The MRF has four manual sort stations: a pre-sort station, one each for PET and HDPE quality control and a final sort quality control. The installation also has 15 conveyor belt lines and five automated functions: A glass disc screen; a steel magnet; a plastics perforator; an optical scanner for Nos. 1 and 2 plastics; and an eddy current separator, all manufactured by Machinex. All processed materials are baled by an Excel machine using an LP wire tie system. Eagle County reported an average residue rate of eight percent, with plastic bags the most



Technical Specifications*

Eagle County Materials Recovery Facility

Location:

Wolcott, Colorado

Start-up date:

January 2010

Number of processing lines:

Two

Throughput:

6.5 tons of fiber and 15 tons of commingle per day

Tons of material processed in 2010:

6,000: 3,500 tons of commingled recyclables and 2,500 tons of fiber (mixed paper and cardboard)

Residue rate:

8 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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troublesome material to manage.

The MRF was designed with energy usage in mind and features a passive solar wall on the south side of the building to temper the make-up air pulled into the facility. Other energy efficiencies include reduced-energy conveyors and individualized heating for the winter months, instead of heating the entire installation. It also features an energy-efficient WattStopper light harvesting system, which uses a light photo sensor and, when there is sufficient lighting in the building, reduces unneeded lights to conserve energy.

The Eagle County MRF has 10 employees total – a manager, a supervisor, an operator, one drop site tech and six sorters – and is currently running one eight-hour shift, five days per week (Monday-Friday).



*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 dylan@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future “MRF of the Month” column.