

MRF of the Month

Eastern Carolina Vocational Center, Inc. (ECVC) Materials Recycling Facility

While this issue of *Resource Recycling* is dedicated to various equipment made in all corners of the globe that “automatically” processes and manipulates recyclables, ECVC’s Recycling Facility uses very little of this type of machinery. The only automation on the entire separation line at the facility is the magnet that pulls out ferrous material and the Hustler conveyor. All of the other material – save for the cardboard, which is pulled before going on the line – is hand-sorted



and baled in a Harris machine.

The reason for all this man-over-machine power is that ECVC has a social mission of “helping people with disabilities attain a higher quality of life through achievement of their vocational skills.” As part of the mission, the MRF gives job opportunities to people who may have difficulty finding work otherwise. MRF workers are paid minimum wage or more, given paid health insurance, retirement, paid vacation and are given protective equipment while working at the facility.

The 46,350-square-foot facility, which ECVC operates under a contract with Pitt County, is fed by materials collected from a baker’s dozen county curbside collection programs – Beaufort, Bertie, Edgecombe, Greene, Hertford, Hyde, Lenoir, Martin, Pamlico, Pasquatank, Pitt,

Tyrell and Washington. Of processed by the facility in 2010, 85 percent was commingled (which includes newsprint) and 10-15 percent was fiber. The biggest headaches for the MRF include shredded paper, sharps and, of course, plastic bags.

While the aforementioned sacks cause slowdowns, due to the amount of hand-sorting that happens on the line, the ECVC MRF is known for producing very “clean material,” which the center reports was a great advantage when commodity prices dropped in 2008.

The facility also engages in a great deal of outreach programs and partnerships. For example, ECVC has partnered with Pitt County, the city of Greenville and East Carolina University and Waste Industries on numerous projects, including a public housing recycling project called “put it in the cart,” which proved so successful, it is now ongoing.

The ECVC Recycling Facility has 50 employees total, typically running one eight-hour shift, five days per week (Monday-Friday), with a second part-time shift run when needed.

*Know of a North American MRF that you feel *Resource Recycling* readers should know about? If so, e-mail your recommendation, with high-resolution pictures, to dylan@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future “MRF of the Month” column.



Technical Specifications*

Eastern Carolina Vocational Center, Inc.
(ECVC) Materials Recycling Facility

Location:

Greenville, North Carolina

Start-up date:

1975

Number of processing lines:

One

Throughput:

65 tons of OCC and 35 tons of commingled, per day

Tons of material processed in 2010:

25,274 Tons

Residue rate:

5.1 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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