

MRF of the Month

Waste Management Twin Cities MRF

The “City of Lakes,” as it’s known, is also home to a newly-upgraded materials recovery facility located in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and serving the twin cities area and a good deal of the upper Midwest, as well. The Waste Management Twin Cities MRF receives materials from recycling programs throughout Minnesota, but also from the adjoining states of Iowa, North and South Dakota and Wisconsin.

While it opened up more than a decade ago, the 118,000-square-foot facility this year received a multi-million dollar upgrade to its rigid container processing line which included



additional TiTech optical sorters and a Bollegraaf paper magnet. The upgrade was to expand its accepted materials to all Nos. 3-7 plastics, gable tops and aseptic materials.

Because the MRF receives materials from such a wide geographic swath, it also receives recyclables from a wide variety of collection programs. From the aforementioned five-state area, it receives materials from both commercial and residential recycling programs, single-, dual- and multi-stream collection alike.

To manage this range of material, the facility runs three processing lines – a single-stream fiber sorting line, the revamped rigid container line and a direct fiber and OCC dump and bale line – using equipment from Bollegraaf, CP Manufacturing, Eriez, Harris and TiTech, with a total throughput of 55-60 tons per hour.

In 2011, the MRF processed 215,260 tons and expects to process an additional 230,000 tons of material in 2012. Since the facility opened in 2002, it has processed 1,854,558 tons of recyclables. The material mix last year included 136,705 tons of fiber and 59,615 tons of commingled containers.

The biggest issues facing the facility are the oft-mentioned plastic bags as well as used diabetic syringes placed in milk or juice jugs. The commercial combined



Technical Specifications*

Waste Management Twin Cities MRF

Location:

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Start-up date:

January 2002

Number of processing lines:

Three

Throughput:

55-60 tons per hour

Tons of material processed in 2011:

215,260 tons

Residue rate:

Residential: 5.5 percent

Commercial combined:
8.7 percent

residue rate for the MRF was 8.7 percent in 2011, and that is expected to drop 5 to 6 percent with the recent upgrades to the container line, according to the company.

There are 95 people employed at the Waste Management Twin Cities MRF, working over two shifts, 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 dylan@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future “MRF of the Month” column.

