

MRF of the Month

Friedman Recycling Co. El Paso MRF



Situated adjacent to the United States Army's second-largest military installation, Fort Bliss, Friedman Recycling Co.'s 55,000-square-foot recycling center is the newest of the company's three MRFs, and the only one Friedman operates outside of Arizona.

Originally opened in April 2007 as a multi-material facility, Bulk Handling Systems (BHS) recently converted the MRF to single-stream processing, allowing it to now handle commingled residential recyclables (excluding glass) on behalf of approximately 200,000 single-family households in and about the greater El Paso metropolitan area. The MRF handles single-stream and source-separated commercially-generated recyclables as well. According to officials, the City of El Paso handles the collection aspect of the recycling program, while Friedman oversees the processing and marketing of the material.

The facility operates one processing line and has the throughput capacity to handle as much as 400 tons per day. In 2009, the Friedman Recycling El Paso MRF processed approximately 47,000 tons of material, with fiber accounting for roughly 70 percent (32,900 tons) of all recyclables sorted at the plant. Unfortunately, though, because of residue in the collection stream, the facility is currently producing a residue rate that ranges between 15 percent and 30 percent. One of the major forms of contamination affecting plant operations is the overabundance of plastic film that's winding up in the collection stream.

The processing system used at the Friedman Recycling facility includes BHS' patented De-Inking Screen, a screen exclusive to BHS that mechanically separates rigid cardboard and boxboard from newspaper. According to BHS officials, the 25-to-30-ton-per-hour screening unit used by the recycling plant "greatly increases the purity of recovered paper grades and dramatically reduces the need for post-sorting the newspaper stream (the screen reduced the post-sort staff to three people)."

The Friedman Recycling MRF employs 55 full-time workers, all of which work under two shifts, five days per week.



Technical Specifications*

Friedman Recycling
Co. El Paso MRF

Location:

El Paso, Texas

Start-up date:

2007 (system was upgraded;
single-stream system went
on-line in April 2010)

Number of processing lines:

One

Throughput:

MRF has capacity to process
up to 400 tons per day

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

47,000

Fiber: 32,900

Commingled containers:
14,100

Residue rate:

Between 15 percent and
30 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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*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, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future “MRF of the Month” column.

