

MRF of the Month

Tricentris Gatineau Sorting Center

The Tricentris Gatineau Sorting Center is located in Gatineau, the fourth-largest city in Québec, which is situated right across the river from Ontario's second-largest city, Ottawa. The new materials recovery facility for Tricentris helps – with the company's other two sorting centers in the province – serve more than 150 municipalities, totaling



approximately 1.5 million residents, or 25 percent of the total population of Québec.

Construction on the 50,000-square-foot MRF began in August of 2011, replacing a facility that was half as large, and sorting operations began in February 2012.

The MRF was designed and built with recycling equipment manufacturer, Machinex, and includes two optical sortation devices, as well as a trommel for managing fiber and removing glass and fines – according to the company, it's the first sorting center in Canada to have one. The facility has the capacity to process 88,000 tons per year.

In its inaugural year, Tricentris expects to process 50,000 tons of recyclables, at 25 tons per hour, on a single processing line, managing a material stream evenly split between fiber and commingled containers of various material types. The facility is fed primarily from single-stream residential collection, though about five to 10 percent of the materials come from single-stream commercial collection.

The MRF currently has a residue rate of approximately 10 percent and the primary issues facing the facility are such troublesome materials as textiles and clothing and long, thin items such as the dreaded garden hose, extension cords, Christmas lights and the like.

The facility was built using recycled materials and has offices that are heated and cooled using geothermal energy. The center also features solar walls and has reduced its water consumption by 40 percent over the facility it replaced.

In addition to traditional materials management, Tricentris has been working to develop alternative uses for some of the glass that its facilities manage. One such project involves using powdered glass as a supplementary cementing material, replacing up to 30



Technical Specifications*

Tricentris Gatineau Sorting Center

Location:

Gatineau, Québec

Start-up date:

February 2012

Number of processing lines:

One

Throughput:

25 tons per hour

Tons of material processed in 2012 (estimated):

50,000 tons

Residue rate:

10 percent





percent of traditional cement with the glass powder. Two of the walls of the Gatineau building were built using the concrete resulting from the project.

There are 35 people working at the Tricentris Gatineau Sorting Center, working one shift, 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.