

MRF of the Month

Millennium Recycling, Inc.

Located in the Best Little City in America, Millennium Recycling's 44,000-square-foot MRF serves an estimated 230,000-plus households throughout South Dakota, Northwest Iowa and Southwest Minnesota, and is the only true clean single-stream facility serving The Dakotas.



Originally opened in 1999 as a dual-stream plant (processing roughly 6,000 tons per year), the MRF was converted to single-stream in 2007 and now processes in excess of 31,000 tons of residential and commercial recyclables per year, including bottle glass. Added in 2008, it marked the first time in nearly a decade that glass was able to be processed. And, according to Millennium Recycling owner and president, Jake Anderson, in addition to processing commercial material collected single-stream, the MRF also handles straight loads of fiber, including OCC and specialty paper grades (i.e., printer's scrap, newsstand returns, paper shredders).

The Millennium facility consists of three processing lines (single-stream, fiber and electronic scrap), which, combined, produce a material throughput of between 130 and 140 tons per day. Though nearly three dozen collection companies are responsible for hauling curbside material to the plant, Millennium Recycling also allows customers to drop-off common recyclables – as well as cardboard, phone books and other books – 24 hours a day, using containers placed on site. It should be noted, however, that electronics can only be dropped off during regular business hours.

Altogether, the plant processed approximately 31,500 tons of material in 2008, with fiber accounting for nearly 77 percent of that total, followed by containers, at 20 percent, and e-scrap, at three percent.

The first Mount Rushmore State company to establish an electronics recycling program, Millennium's Bargain Bytes division (located at the northwest corner of the MRF) accepts almost anything with a cord or circuit board, excluding appliances, dehumidifiers and air conditioners. The division also handles parted components, such as power supplies, disc drives, memory, motherboards and sound cards. Used and refurbished electronics, such as computer systems, are sold through the Bargain Bytes computer store located on site (all hard drives and storage systems are wiped in accordance to U.S. Department of Defense standards), while all other unmarketable parts and systems are redirected for proper destruction.

Technical Specifications*

Millennium Recycling, Inc.

Location:

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Start-up date:

1999 (expanded to single-stream processing in 2007)

Number of processing lines:

Three (single-stream, fiber and e-scrap)

Throughput:

Approximate tons per day:

130-140

Fiber: 70

Commingled containers: 65

E-scrap: four

Approximate tons of material processed (2008): 31,500

Fiber: 24,255

Commingled containers: 6,300

E-scrap: 945

Residue rate:

Two percent

Presently, one of the most significant issues affecting plant operations is shredded paper being disposed of in with the comingled stream. Anderson stated, "It gets everywhere and, at times, will impact our optical sorter's ability to effectively sort containers." Anderson also noted that space has become an issue, especially in the area of the tipping floor for single-stream. "It's an issue we are going to address in the coming months, as we will be adding additional tip space to accommodate the increase in the amount of material we're processing."

The facility is equipped with a CP Manufacturing and MSS, Inc. single-stream processing system, an American Baler model 8043 fiber baler and an Excel Manufacturing, Inc. 2R 63 container baler.

The single-stream line runs two shifts, four days a week, with the system down one day per week for general servicing. Maintenance and office staff, as well as general warehouse employees, each work 40 hours over the course of a five-day work week. Millennium Recycling employs 90 full-time staff.



*Know of a North American-based materials recovery facility 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.

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.

Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc.

203.226.3238 • 203.226.3239 (fax) • gaa@governmentaladvisory.com • www.governmentaladvisory.com

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