

# MRF of the Month

## Rumpke Recycling Cincinnati MRF



Situated between the Cincinnati suburb communities of St. Bernard and Elmwood Place, just west off of Interstate 75, sits Rumpke Recycling's 68,000-square-foot Cincinnati MRF.

Formerly known as the St. Bernard/Center City Recycling

Facility, the Cincinnati MRF

receives single-stream material from approximately 50 communities located in and around the greater Cincinnati metropolitan area (Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton and Warren counties, Ohio) and in Northern Kentucky (Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties). Through municipal contracts alone, the facility serves approximately 450,000 households in the greater Cincinnati area.

In addition to material generated via residential curbside collection/recycling, Rumpke also collects recyclables from various public drop-boxes situated around the Queen City, as well as from its single-stream collection program for commercial businesses. Rumpke collects fiber from city agencies located throughout Cincinnati, as well. According to Recycling Operations Manager Brad Dunn, the bulk of the commercial tonnage collected is old corrugated containers (OCC), which is handled through compactors and front-load and rear-load collections.

The recycling facility operates three processing lines (single-stream, OCC and high grades) and has the throughput capacity to handle between 350-500 tons of material per day, depending on the season. Per Dunn, the single-stream line processes an average of 250-350 tons per day, the OCC line handles between 100-125 tons daily, and the high-grade line sorts between five and eight tons per day.

In 2009, Rumpke's Cincinnati MRF processed approximately 100,000 tons of material, with fiber accounting for roughly 84 percent (84,000 tons) of all recyclables sorted at the plant and commingled containers making up the remaining tonnage. According to Dunn, the recycling facility is currently producing a residue rate of around five percent, or less, and the biggest contamination issue being dealt with at the plant is plastic bags. "Plastics bags are a huge challenge for us," says Dunn. "We spend a lot of man hours preventing bags from entering our sorting system, and removing bags that sorters miss from screens."

The processing system used at the Cincinnati MRF consists of a 25 tons-per-hour, single-stream Bollegraaf installation, which encompasses Lubo conveyors, three TITECH optical sorters and Bollegraaf (110-MR) and Excel Manufacturing (2R10) horizontal balers. The facility initially converted over to single-stream processing in 2002, and the system was upgraded to the Bollegraaf installation in late 2009.



### Technical Specifications\*

#### Rumpke Recycling Cincinnati MRF

##### Location:

Cincinnati, Ohio

##### Start-up date:

April 1991 (single-stream went on-line in 2002)

##### Number of processing lines:

Three

##### Throughput:

350-500 tons per day, depending on the season

##### Approximate tons of material processed in 2009:

100,000

Fiber: 84,000

Commingled containers: 16,000

##### Residue rate:

Five percent or less

### 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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GAA, Inc.

“Our most recent upgrade has been an important step in growing Rumpke’s recycling division,” says Dunn. “I believe this further solidifies Rumpke Recycling as a major player in the Midwest and also affirms Rumpke’s long-time commitment to recycling.”

Rumpke Recycling’s Cincinnati MRF employs 53 people over two shifts; this includes management, maintenance, administrative, sorters, equipment operators and MRF drivers.

\*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](mailto:justin@resource-recycling.com), and your facility may just be highlighted in a future “MRF of the Month” column.

