

MRF of the Month

Greenstar-Houston

The first single-stream processing plant in Houston, Texas, the Greenstar-Houston materials recovery facility opened in December of last year to much fanfare. Serving Texas' largest city, and the surrounding area, the 90,000-square-foot facility processes materials collected from primarily single-stream curbside pick-up – though all streams are accepted –



from various communities, municipal utility districts (MUDs), homeowner associations (HOAs), and independent haulers.

Owned and operated by Greenstar Recycling, a subsidiary of Dublin, Ireland-based NTR, the facility was built using processing equipment made by CP Manufacturing. The MRF has four processing lines, one single-stream line, one for high-grade fiber, a document destruction line and one for miscellaneous materials.

Greenstar-Houston has processed 80,000 tons of material for 2011 – approximately 71,000 tons of fiber and 9,000 tons of commingled containers. According to the company, the popularity of single-stream recycling in Space City has resulted in 62 percent growth in volume of materials at the facility from January to July of this year.

The facility is currently operating with an 8 percent residue rate, with the largest issue facing plant operators is “public education – to educate people on recycling so we can start new programs to increase participation rates and increase volumes, as well as to get recycling programs started in areas that currently don’t recycle.”

The Greenstar-Houston MRF has 50 employees total and is currently running one eight-hour shift, five days per week (Monday-Friday).

Technical Specifications*

Greenstar-Houston

Location:

Houston, Texas

Start-up date:

December 2010

Number of processing lines:

Four

Throughput:

25 tons per hour of single-stream, 240 tons per day of fiber and 40 tons per day of commingled containers

Tons of material processed in 2011

80,000 tons

Residue rate: 8 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 high-resolution pictures, to dylan@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future "MRF of the Month" column.



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