

MRF of the Month

North Gateway Transfer Station and MRF



Situated in Phoenix's North Gateway urban village, alongside the Black Canyon Freeway (I-17), the City of Phoenix's North Gateway Transfer Station and MRF is a single-stream facility processing material initially being handled by the city's 27th Avenue MRF. The plant opened in 2007 and is operated by Hudson Baylor, under a contract with the City of Phoenix.

Collocated with a solid waste transfer facility, the 60,000-square-foot North Gateway MRF (which includes a 21,000-square-foot tipping floor) processes curbside-collected, commingled material generated by residents living in the northern sector of Phoenix, and in the communities of Peoria and Anthem. The plant does not handle commercially-generated material.

The recycling facility operates one processing line, handling an average of 272 tons of material per day (peak throughput is roughly 27 tons per hour). And, according to Carl Smith, a solid waste administrative analyst with the City of Phoenix's Public Works Department, fiber accounts for an estimated 85 percent of the material processed at the North Gateway MRF.

For the 2009 calendar year, the plant processed 66,742 tons of recyclables (70,700 during the city's '09-'10 fiscal year), producing an impressive residue rate of less than one percent during that time. With regards to contamination, Smith states that non-recyclable items in the incoming stream – such as plastic film and bags, hoses, chain and wire – is an ongoing operational challenge for the MRF, while glass breakage continues to be a problem from the recovery standpoint. The processing installation used at the North Gateway MRF consists of Bollegraaf/LUBO USA screens, conveyors and balers.

Notable “green” features of the North Phoenix MRF include the facility's use of translucent panels, to make use of natural light

Technical Specifications*

North Gateway Transfer Station and MRF

Location:

Phoenix, Arizona

Start-up date:

February 2007

Number of processing lines:

One

Throughput:

272 tons per day

Approximate tons of material processed in 2009:

66,742 in calendar year 2009,

70,700 in fiscal year '09-'10

Fiber: 85 percent of production

Commingled containers: 15 percent

Residue rate:

Less than one 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.

Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc.

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

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throughout the building, and the installation of solar lighting in the plant's parking lot. In addition, the MRF includes an enclosed, climate-controlled viewing gallery that's situated atop the wall separating the MRF from the facility's transfer operation. According to Smith, the viewing gallery, which is adorned in local, commissioned, recycling-based art, allows for easy viewing of both operations and is ideal for educational tours.

Phoenix's North Gateway MRF employs 75 people, over two shifts, and operates 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 justin@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future "MRF of the Month" column.

