

# MRF of the Month

## Casella Recycling's Zero-Sort Facility



Located in the North Boston community of

Charlestown, Casella Waste Systems' newly renovated recycling center (operating under the Casella Recycling name) was the first MRF in the Bay State to process under a single-stream approach, and, according to company officials, is the fifth largest recycling facility in the U.S.

Casella embarked on a complete enhancement of the plant in September 2008 in response to Boston, along with other surrounding municipalities, switching to commingled collection. Boston officially launched its single-stream program this past July. A similar Casella facility, located about 50 miles west of Boston in the community of Auburn, serves the state's central region.

Consisting of two 65,000-square-foot buildings, the MRF accepts residential curbside material from over 30 municipalities in the greater Beantown area, the most notable being Boston, which consists of over 280,000 homes (residents use 64-gallon rollcarts for recyclables). The Charlestown facility handles commercially-generated recyclables as well, of which are collected via single-, dual- and multi-stream approaches.

The Casella Recycling plant operates seven processing lines for incoming material, including single-stream, commingled containers, newspaper, sorted office waste, commercial high grade (e.g., printers) and one line each for clean and dirty old corrugated containers (OCC). Retrofitted with Sherbrooke O.E.M. Ltd. equipment – consisting of eight optical sorting units, six disk screens, three magnets and two two-ram balers, as well as including 25 walking floors – the MRF has the capabilities to process more than 45 tons per hour, or between 700-750 tons per day, of the aforementioned material.

According to Bob Cappadona, market area manager for Casella Recycling, average per-day throughput for the facility breaks down to

### Technical Specifications\*

#### Casella Recycling's Zero-Sort Facility

**Location:**

Charlestown, Massachusetts

**Start-up date:**

Re-opened September 21, 2009 as single-stream facility

**Number of processing lines:**

Seven (single-stream, newspaper, commingled containers, sorted office waste, clean OCC, dirty OCC and commercial high grade)

**Throughput:**

Approximate tons per day: 700

Single-stream: 300

Newspaper: 180

Commingled containers: 130

Clean OCC: 100

**Approximate tons of material processed (2009):**

190,000

**Residue rate:**

Less than five 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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