

MRF of the Month

E.L. Harvey & Sons Materials Recycling Facility

Best known as the starting point of the Boston Marathon, held annually on Patriots' Day in April, or as the birthplace of baseball hall of famer Dennis Eckersley, Hopkinton, Massachusetts is also home to the Boston region's newest MRF, the E.L. Harvey & Sons Materials Recycling Facility.

Accepting single-, dual- and multi-stream collected recyclable materials from throughout Red Sox Nation – communities from Central and Eastern Massachusetts, Southern New Hampshire and Cape Cod – the 80,000-square-foot single-stream MRF is the newest addition to E.L. Harvey's 100-acre facility. The compound also houses the company's main office, a 30,000-square-foot paper and electronics recovery facility, a transfer station, a construction and demolition recycling facility, and



maintenance and fabrication facilities.

E.L. Harvey & Sons, led by four generations of Harveys, has been an independent, family-owned and -operated company since its founding in 1911, as a dairy farm, and has been in the collection and recycling industry for four decades, serving more than 85,000 commercial, industrial and residential customers.

The company's state-of-the-art MRF was designed, manufactured and installed by Bulk Handling Systems, and it features the firm's latest in screening and NRT optical sorting technology on one 25-ton-per-hour single-stream processing line.

Harvey & Sons' move to recycling from the dairy pastures came in the 1940s, when a local businessman had signed a contract with nearby grocery stores to handle its cardboard and trash. But the death of the man's horse, which was to do the hauling, led to an opportunity for the Harveys, and the family has been in waste and recycling ever since. "At the time, farming was dying out," Jim Harvey told *The Worcester Telegram* on the company's 100th anniversary. "Thank goodness that horse died. We started recycling long before it was fashionable. You have to find your niche in life. This is our niche. This business has been good to our family."

Previous to the new MRF's opening, the company's focus had "primarily been in the collection and recycling of commercial and industrial materials and recycling of C&D waste materials," according to a company spokes-



Technical Specifications

E.L. Harvey & Sons Materials Recycling Facility

Location:

Hopkinton, Massachusetts

Start-up date:

August 2013

Number of processing lines:

One

Throughput:

25 tons per hour

Tons of material expected to be processed in 2014:

60,000 tons

Residue rate:

Approximately 16 percent



person. “The new single-stream MRF will give us the opportunity to expand into residential collection and recycling.”

The material mix of the facility, which also handles commercial-collected recyclables, is approximately 56 percent fiber, 18 percent glass, 10 percent commingled containers and an incoming 16 percent of residue. According to BHS, the MRF can recover more than 95 percent of available recyclables moving through the facility.

“This project will help communities and businesses throughout Eastern Massachusetts increase recycling rates, decrease disposal costs, and lessen the use of traditional disposal sites,” Ben Harvey, company president, said at the facility’s August 2013 grand opening. “It’s a step toward helping the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Solid Waste Master Plan reach its 56 percent recycling goal as established by the Massachusetts DEP.”

The E.L. Harvey & Sons Materials Recycling Facility runs one 8-hour shift, five days a week, employing 30 people, excluding maintenance personnel.

