

# MRF of the Month

## Balcones Resources, Austin

Austin, Texas isn't just the capital of the Lone Star State, it's also known as the live music capital of the world, the location of the country's largest natural swimming pool in an urban area, the home of millions of Mexican free-tailed bats which live under a downtown bridge, several massive city-wide music festivals that draw attendees from around the world and a singular motto – "Keep Austin Weird." The city prides itself on being unique and the new Balcones Resources materials recovery facility is no different.



ferent. In fact, at the MRF's opening this past summer, a local band played with stacks of paper bales as a backdrop and three of the city's famed food carts served guests.

The new \$25 million MRF was built following Balcones winning a 20-year contract from the City of Austin to process 60 percent of the city's residential curbside recycling material and a large portion of material from commercial customers throughout the city, including the University of Texas and the state's Capitol Complex.

The 100,000-square-foot facility houses a 25-tons-per-hour, single-stream processing system designed and built with Bulk Handling Systems and includes Sierra International and MacPresse balers and NRT optical units. The facility handles a material mix of approximately 70 percent fiber and 30 percent commingled containers, all of which is collected through both commercial accounts and single-stream curbside. Currently, the MRF has an estimated 10 percent residue rate (due to incoming residue), but the facility captures around 99 percent of available recyclables.

The facility's 10-acre site has access to a rail line that runs from Austin which contributes to a reduction in the city's carbon emissions by using rail cars to ship a substantial portion – both nationally and internationally – of its product.

Over 3.9 million pounds of asphalt, 2.6 million pounds of brick, 81,900 pounds of metal and over 24,000

## Technical Specifications\*

### Balcones Resources, Austin

#### Location:

Austin, Texas

#### Start-up date:

July 30, 2012

#### Number of processing lines:

One

#### Throughput:

25 tons per hour

#### Tons of material expected to be processed in 2013:

100,000 tons

#### Residue rate:

10 percent







pounds of wood were reclaimed or recycled during the construction of the facility, according to the company. The MRF also features solar panels on its roof, motion-sensing office lighting, skylights and daylight harvesting fixtures in the processing plant.

Balcones Resources, Austin has 34 full-time employees working one shift, five days a week.

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

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