

# MRF of the Month

## Penn Waste Recycle Facility

Government leaders have long looked to the future in York, Pa.

In 1777, under threat from the advancing British, the Continental Congress retreated to what is today a small city in south-central Pennsylvania, making it the first capital of the U.S. It was in York that Congress drafted and adopted the Articles of Confederation, and, according to the city, declared the first National Day of Thanksgiving.

Today, an elected official is aiming to chart a path forward in materials recovery with the opening of a MRF in the municipality. Scott Wagner, a Pennsylvania state senator, is president and owner of Penn Waste, which opened a 96,000-square-foot materials recovery facility in February.

“Our long-term goal is to continue to find innovative ways to waste less and recycle more by diverting recyclable materials from the waste stream,” Wagner stated in a press release.

The MRF handles single-stream material collected from 175,000 homes and 3,500 commercial customers in 66 municipalities in the region.

Using equipment from Bulk Handling Systems and American Baler, the Penn Waste



### Technical Specifications

#### Penn Waste Recycle Facility

##### Location:

York, Pa.

##### Start-up date:

February 2015

##### Number of processing lines:

One

##### Throughput:

95,000 tons expected  
in 2015

##### Residue rate:

19 percent



Recycle Facility sorts 35 tons per hour of fiber and commingled containers. Not counting residue, the stream is about 75 percent fiber and 25 percent containers.

It's a big step forward from the 10 tons per hour handled by the company's old facility and equipment.

"With community education and the new capabilities, Penn Waste is hoping to double the 2014 record of materials recycled over the next few years," according to a press release.

The new facility was also built with a focus on safety. "We added both a smoke curtain and pop-out panels to the facility," Amanda Davidson, director of communications, said.

The curtain ensures smoke is contained and removed, and the panels look like skylights but pop out to release smoke, she said.

The company also separated the tipping floor from the rest of the facility to ensure a safer work environment for employees, she said.

And each day workers start their shift by doing group warm-up exercises.

The Penn Waste Recycle Facility has 70 employees working two shifts Monday through Friday.

