

MRF of the Month

Rivers Recycling LLC

For years, not a single materials recovery facility existed along a key 189-mile stretch of Interstate 20.

“My brother Matt and I built this facility because there wasn’t a facility between Dallas and Shreveport, therefore making it extremely expensive for East Texas to recycle,” said Jeff Craine, president and CEO of Rivers Recycling.

Their 37,500-square-foot, privately owned MRF sitting on 12 acres started receiving material in August 2011. Since then, the quantity of material has grown by about three times. In 2014, for example, the facility processed 12,071 tons; they expect to handle 18,500 tons in 2015.

The biggest curbside program in the region, in Longview, Texas, started in August 2014. The City invested more than \$3 million in the program, which saw the distribution of 95-gallon carts to more than 24,500 households and the program boosted the materials arriving at Rivers Recycling.

Nearby Kilgore, Texas, also has a curbside recycling program. Republic Services, which provides hauling services for the city, distributed more than 4,000 carts to residents there.

Both programs leverage single-stream collection.

“We hope to help grow the number of programs in East Texas over the next couple of years, including the City of Tyler, Texas, which now has a voluntary cart program in place,” Craine said.



Technical Specifications

Rivers Recycling LLC

Location:

Kilgore, Texas

Start-up date:

August 2011

Number of processing lines:

Two

Throughput:

70 tons per day

Throughput in 2015:

Estimated 18,500 tons

Residue rate:

18.24 percent

Rivers Recycling also handles commercial recycling from all of East Texas. The company, which doesn't do any of its own collections, does business with several big customers, including Republic Services, Pratt, the City of Longview, the City of Tyler, Progressive Waste and Sanitation Solutions, Craine said. Rivers also has several smaller regional customers.

To handle materials, the facility utilizes a baler, Evergreen sort line and in-feed conveyor, CP Group OCC and mixed-paper screens, CP Group paper conveyors and an Eriez magnet. Rivers Recycling currently processes about 60 tons of fiber and 10 tons of commingled containers each day, Craine said.

The fiber screens are new, and they've allowed the company to eliminate a night shift and process about three times more material, Craine recently told The Longview News-Journal.

In 2014, 75 percent of the material was fiber and 25 percent was containers.

"We do not recycle glass at this facility and, fortunately, don't get much of it," Craine said.

The facility currently has a residue rate of 18.24 percent, but through continuing education in 2015, that number is expected to drop some, Craine said.

The biggest contamination issues faced by the company include grocery bags and food waste, along with commercial waste.

"Bags get caught in screens constantly and reduce their effectiveness, making the job more labor intensive," Craine noted. "We have a full-time maintenance employee that cleans screens twice a day."

On the commercial side, contamination can take the form of hoses, strapping, pallets and more.

Rivers Recycling LLC has 14 employees working on two sort lines in one shift.



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