

MRF of the Month

Western Placer Waste Management Authority Regional Recycling Facility

Situated northeast of Sacramento in the City of Lincoln, the Western Placer Waste Management Authority (WPWMA) regional recycling facility handles commingled materials, as well as wood and green waste, on behalf of the central Northern Californian cities of Auburn, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, Roseville and the County of Placer – an estimated 285,000 plus



households. The MRF handles residential and commercially-generated material collected via curbside services and the authority's drop-off transfer station.

The regional center originally opened in 1995 as a dirty MRF, processing nearly 1,000 tons of material per day; however, due to rapid growth throughout the region and requirements established by the landmark California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989, which mandated that communities and counties meet a diversion goal of at least 50 percent by 2000, the facility was forced to ameliorate its operation. The goal of the project was to increase diversion at the MRF by at least 20 percent.

Started in 2006, the expansion of the facility was a \$26 million undertaking, which included engineering, building modifications, retrofitting of existing equipment and the purchase of new screening equipment from Machinex. The WPWMA was able to fund the entire project without having to raise rates or issue bonds. And, the expansion essentially transformed the facility into a clean MRF.

Currently processing at a throughput rate of 2,600 tons per day, engineers designed the regional recycling facility with the capabilities to

process as much as 2,800 tons per day, if necessary. The MRF has two processing lines for commingled recyclables and wood waste/green waste, and WPWMA officials stated the facility is exceeding the targeted 50-percent diversion rate by eight percentage points on average.

In addition to accepting traditional recyclables, the MRF also accepts e-waste, allowing residents living within Placer County to drop-off used or obsolete consumer electronics any day of the week, free of charge.

The WPWMA regional recycling facility is open 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m.-5p.m. on weekends. The MRF employs a staff of nearly 240 workers, with approximately 60 sorters working the typical shift.

*Know of a North American MRF that you feel *Resource Recycling* readers should know about? If so, e-mail your recommendation, with hi-resolution pictures, to justin@resource-recycling.com, and your facility may just be highlighted in a future "MRF of the Month" column.



Technical Specifications*

Western Placer Waste Management Authority Regional Recycling Facility

Location:

Lincoln, California

Start-up date:

Opened in 1995, converted to single-stream in 2006-2007

Number of processing lines:

Two (commingled materials and wood waste/green waste)

Throughput:

2,600-2,800 tons per day

Diversion rate:

Pushing 60 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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