



Residential Bulky Rigids Case Study – Denver, CO

FACILITY: Alpine Waste and Recycling Altogether Recycling Facility, Denver CO

WEBSITE: [HTTP://ALPINEWASTE.COM/](http://alpinewaste.com/)

TONS PROCESSED PER YEAR: 110,000

YEAR OPENED: 2007

TYPE OF RECYCLING FACILITY: Single stream recycling, Alpine is owner and operator of the MRF

Materials Accepted Prior to Expansion

- Plastic Bottles & Containers #1 - #7
- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Tin, Foil, Steel & Aluminum Cans
- Chipboard
- Cartons
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Newspapers
- Mixed paper and office paper
- Magazines
- Bulk and junk mail

EXPANDED TO BULKY RIGIDS COLLECTION: 2012

ADDED AT PROGRAM EXPANSION:

- Bulky Rigid Plastics (buckets, lawn furniture, children's toys and bins, laundry baskets)
- Bulky Rigid Plastics are delivered to the MRF both as a component of the single stream mix as well as a separate dedicated stream.

REASONS FOR EXPANDING:

- Prior to adding Bulky Rigid Plastics Alpine conducted research to ensure that there would be a long-term viable market for the material. The research indicated that there was a viable market for Bulky Rigid Plastics. Alpine next examined their system

configuration to determine if they could pull the material without adverse effects to the processing system. Because of the existing MRF design, Alpine found that they were able to implement the program without any significant upgrades of equipment or personnel.

- Alpine completed a MRF redesign in 2015 / 2016. The new system makes it even easier to pull Bulky Rigid Plastics from the stream.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

Alpine encourages customers to include Bulky Rigid Plastics in the single stream mix. This is accomplished mainly by listing the material on accepted material promotional items and on the website.

PLASTIC RECOVERY VOLUMES:

TOTAL TONS RECYCLED (ALL MATERIALS): 110,000 annually

TOTAL TONS OF RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLED: Alpine could not report on the specific number of tons of Bulky Rigid Plastics, but they did report that the impact has been in the small to medium small range.

CHALLENGES:

No major challenges. Alpine researched all of the impacts very closely prior to implementation (the same process they take with all of their accepted materials) and they expected a positive outcome. In this case, the research proved accurate, Alpine reports it has been a great transition for the company and everything has gone as planned.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Adding the material to the processing stream has helped Alpine increase its customer base, increase revenue, as well as increase the volumes of processed recyclables.
- The biggest advice that Alpine has for other MRF operators is to plan their facility and processing design around adding future materials. For example, in addition the Bulky Rigids upgrade a few years ago, Alpine recently added expanded polystyrene foam to their mix (one of the only MRFs in North America to do so) and the company has room to add more materials to the stream in the future.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Brent Hildebrand

Vice President

Alpine Waste and Recycling

bhildebrand@alpinewaste.com

EXAMPLE OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

ALTOGETHER RECYCLING™
Recycling Has Evolved.

ALPINE WASTE & RECYCLING

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE RECYCLED:

- Plastic Bags
- Plastic Shrink Wrap
- Plastic Containers marked as "PLA"
- Compostable Plastic Containers
- Ceramics
- Batteries or Light Bulbs
- Paper Towels, Paper Plates or Cups
- Hazardous Materials (Needles)

RECYCLING ADVICE:

- Flatten all cardboard boxes
- Empty all food and liquids
- Ensure aerosol cans are empty
- Leave lids on plastic containers