



Containers Case Study – Little Rock, AR

MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY: Little Rock Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

WEBSITE: <http://www.littlerock.org/citydepartments/publicworks/solidwaste/recycle.aspx>

LOCATION: Little Rock, Arkansas

OPERATOR: Waste Management

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED: 80,000

MATERIALS ACCEPTED:

In 2012, WM's intention was to stay competitive and progressive in a changing industry when developing their new MRF. WM decided to accept a wide range of materials including #1-7 plastics in their facility. The Little Rock MRF processes residential material from the region, including the City of Little Rock's residential curbside program. Materials accepted include:

- Mixed Paper
- Newspaper
- Plastic Bottles and Containers #1-7
- Mixed rigid plastics
- Empty aerosol cans
- Household metals
- Empty Glass containers
- Cartons
- Aluminum food and beverage containers
- Tin & steel cans

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

WM's education campaign "Recycle Often, Recycle Right" has been a key contributor in communicating and educating residents on the proper materials to recycle.

RECYCLING RECOVERY RATES:

- Facility processes an estimated 2,000 tons, or 4 million pounds, of total recyclables per month
- Approximately 10% of the MRF's total recyclables is estimated to be mixed plastics

CHALLENGES:

- Overall, the MRF has not dealt with any particular challenges in accepting non-bottle rigid plastics.
- Issues with food residue on all recyclables has always been a problem, resulting in the MRF's highest levels of contamination at an estimated 33 percent.
- Moving all recyclable materials to the market has been a second issue the MRF has dealt with, although not impossible to sell the baled material, the process has been slowed and the prices is not always what they are hoping for.
- The MRF knows commodity prices rise and fall, and hope the market eventually turns to the right direction soon.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- To help keep the recycling stream as clean as possible, the Little Rock MRF relies on education and communication efforts.
- Using the findings of their routine audits of truck routes and recycling bins, the MRF has turned to boots on the ground efforts to tag carts with a high contamination rate and educate those residents about what is accepted and what is not.

EXAMPLE OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE:



RECYCLE ONLY

Reciclar sólo



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| <p>ITEMS TO RECYCLE <i>OBJETOS PARA RECICLAR</i></p>  <p>Mixed Paper, Magazines, Catalogs, Junk Mail, Soft Cover Books, Newspaper (includes all inserts), Non-foil gift wrap, greeting cards, shredded paper in clear tied off bags</p> <p><i>Mezclar papel, revistas y catálogos, Junk Mail, tapas blandas Libros, periódico (incluye todas las inserciones), no-foil abrigo del regalo. Y las tarjetas de salud, papel desmenuzada en claro atado maletas</i></p> |  <p>Plastic Bottles and Containers #1-#7 (including tubs, lids and caps) Mixed Rigid Plastics (ie:laundry baskets, large plastic tubs, containers from potted plants)</p> <p><i>Botellas de plástico y envases # 1- #7 (incluyendo Bañeras de hidromasaje, tapas y cápsulas) mezclada plásticos rígidos (ie: lavandería canastas, gran Bañeras de plástico, contenedores de macetas con plantas)</i></p> |
|  <p>Empty Aerosol Cans, Household Metals- old metal pots, metal pans, metal cookware (no glass top), Aseptic Drink Boxes, Gable Top Containers (like orange juice containers)</p> <p><i>Latas de Aerosol vacías, ollas de metal de metales-antiguo hogar, metal cacerolas, ollas (no superior de vidrio), beber aséptico de metal Cajas, Gable Top contenedores (como envases de jugo de naranja)</i></p> | <p>Corrugated Cardboard, Kraft Paper, Phone Books, Paperboard, Chip Board (ie: Cereal Boxes, Shoe Boxes)</p> <p><i>Cartón corrugado, Kraft Documento, de guías telefónicas, cartón, Chip Junta (ie: Cereal Las cajas, cajas de zapatos)</i></p>  <p>Empty Glass Containers, Aluminum Foil & Pie Tins, Aluminum Food & Beverage Containers, Tin-Coated Steel Food & Beverage Containers</p> <p><i>Los envases de vidrio Vacío, Papel de aluminio & pie latas de aluminio, Restauración Los contenedores, Tin-Coated Acero Restauración Contenedores</i></p> |

NO GARBAGE, YARD WASTE OR STYROFOAM ACCEPTED
NO basura, desechos de patio, O Poliesticrfo aceptado

For Service in Little Rock call 311; for all other Cities call 565-0191
Visit our website @ www.recyclebank.com/WM



The Association of
Plastic Recyclers

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