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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS TO RECYCLE</th>
<th>OBJETOS PARA RECICLAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reciclable paper, revistas y cartulinas, correo ordinario, hojas de papel sin cinta, regalos de navidad y otros paquetes de envío.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Bottles and Containers #1-#7 (including tubs, lids and caps)</td>
<td>Botellas de plástico y envases #1-#7 (incluyendo tapones de plástico, tapas y tapones)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Rigid Plastics (e.g., laundry basket, large plastic tubs, containers from potted plants)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metal cans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empty Aerosol Cans, Household Metal-old metal pots, metal pans, metal cookware (no glass top), Aseptic Drink Boxes, Gable Top Containers (like orange juice containers)</td>
<td>Contenedores de aerosol vacíos, recipientes de metal, recipientes de cocina (sin tapas de vidrio), recipientes de bebidas aseptizados.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lots of metal vats, cisterns (no superior de vidrio), boiler stainless de metal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gable Top containers (como envases de jugo de naranja)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrugated Cardboard, Kraft Paper, Phone Books, Paperboard, Chip Board (i.e., Cereal Boxes, Shor Boxes)</td>
<td>Cartón corrugado, papel Kraft, libros de teléfono, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cartón (i.e., Caja de Cereal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empty Glass Containers, Aluminum Foil &amp; Pie Tins, Aluminum Food &amp; Beverage Containers, Tin-Coated Steel Food &amp; Beverage Containers</td>
<td>Botellas vacías de vidrio, Folha de Aluminio, vasijas de papel de aluminio, recipientes de bebidas de aluminio y recipientes de aluminio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restauración de tuberías, recipientes de embalaje (envasados de jugo de naranja)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NO GARBAGE, YARD WASTE OR STYROFOAM ACCEPTED**

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