



Sustainable Collection and Processing of Single-Stream Recyclables

Graham Stevens

Director of Sustainability & Growth

FCR Recycling



What is Single Stream?



Clean, unsorted recyclables.







Benefits of Single Stream



Collection:

- No sorting at the curb
- Allows for fully automated collection

Collection costs are reduced by 20%- 130%

- Allows for higher compaction rates and load sizes
- Lower workers compensation/injury rates
- Uniform fleet for recycling and MSW

Curbside Collection has come a long way in the last 30 years...



















Increased volume and ease of access...









Added compaction...













Semi-automated Compacted Containerized Collection...















Fully-automated Compacted Containerized Collection...













Benefits of Single Stream



Residents:

- Simple.
- Wheeled carts are easier to get to the curb
- Covered carts eliminate blowing
- Large sized carts can handle all the material– less tempation to throw that 128oz Tide Bottle in the trash
- Often have what's recyclable on the lid

























Benefits of Single Stream



MRF Operator:

Keeps haulers and residents happy

More volume



Volumes
typically grow
20%- 70%
per municipality



Single-Stream Challenges



Collection:

- You can't see what's in the cart
- New trucks increase efficiency but are expensive
- Carts are more expensive than bins
- Route balancing and transition



Single-Stream Challenges



Residents:

Where do I put this big cart?





Single-Stream Challenges



MRF Operator:

- \$6-10 million dollars of equipment are necessary to do the job right
- What do I do with the mixed broken glass?
- New maintenance challenges and higher costs
- Maintaining QUALITY bale production

\$10,000,000

Hartford Single Stream System and Building Improvements





Screens

- More than 7 active discscreens agitate, flip and separate the fiber from the containers.
- Waterfall configuration of most screens keeps containers and glass fragments from riding on the paper







Glass

- Only MRF in the country that has optical sort to remove ceramics and other contaminants from broken glass
- Able to sell glass directly to the glass bottle manufacturer.













 Well lit, ergonomically correct sort stations coupled with low burden depth = QUALITY







Manager and team is incentivized based on 1. Safety 2. Quality and 3. Production









Additional Innovation to foster quality:

- · We staff a picker on the residue belt
- We QC our material going into the baler with two sorters.
- We use optical sorters to pull PET (no PLA or PP slips through)
- We QC all material sorted by the optical sort.
- All bales are inspected before they are stacked in inventory and a second time before they are loaded





Additional Innovation to Foster Quality:

- Our team constantly tinkers with the system to improve quality.
- System is designed with checks and balances– extra sort stations just in case
- Great communication with CRRA to monitor and improve the inbound quality
- Great communication with our end markets
 — we have been selling to some companies for more than 20 years.