Waste Audit of MRF Residue

An in depth look at the remaining waste stream at a Material Recovery Facility

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Why look at the trash in a MRF?

- To better understand the residue composition
- Identify opportunities for improvement
Background

- Waste Management/Recycle America MRF
- Recycle America was already performing audits on OCRRA residential recyclables
Process

• Set aside 50 tons of incoming material (54.52t in this case)
• Separate and weigh residue (891.5 lbs)
• Residue sample for the audit (412.4 lbs)
The Process Cont.
More Process...
More Process...
Results
## Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Total lb.</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Blue bin Metal</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undersized/too small</td>
<td>21.5</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other film plastics</td>
<td>30.6</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Recyclable Plastics (other than film &amp; bags)</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textiles</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plastic Bags</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagged Items</td>
<td>121.9</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MRF Residue Composition, April 6, 2016

- Bagged Items, 29.6%
- Plastic Bags, 15.6%
- Textiles, 14.5%
- Other film plastics, 7.4%
- Non-Recyclable Plastics (other than film & bags), 9.0%
- Non-Blue bin Metal, 4.7%
- Undersized/too small, 5.2%
- Rigid plastics, 3.1%
- Recyclable Paper (not OCC), 3.0%
- Non-recyclable paper, 1.3%
- Recyclable Metal, 1.2%
- Wood, 1.6%
- Recyclable OCC, 1.1%
- Recyclable Plastics, 1.1%
- Non-recyclable paper, 1.3%
- Metal & plastic lids, 0.5%
- Books, 0.8%
- Styrofoam, 0.2%
- Non-recyclable Plastics (other than film & bags), 9.0%
- Textiles, 14.5%
- Plastic Bags, 15.6%
- Bagged Items, 29.6%
Discussion
Lessons Learned

• Adjust sample size
• More OCRRA Employees
• Use a tarp
• Don’t do this in April again