Alpine Waste and Recycling’s Altogether Recycling facility

Denver was founded in November 1858 as a mining town populated by those looking to get rich in the Pike’s Peak Gold Rush. At first, gold was recovered from nearby creeks.

Today, the Altogether Recycling Facility finds its success in mining a different sort of stream: recyclable materials.

The 50,000-square-foot materials recovery facility owned by Alpine Waste and Recycling even collects a material many facilities find difficult to handle, expanded polystyrene. The company uses a small line dedicated to foam packaging, making it the first facility in the state to have such an arrangement.

The facility accepts materials from a variety of residential, commercial and industrial sources. On the residential side, it accepts single-stream curbside set-outs from 35,000 homes.

When the MRF opened in 2007, it was the second-largest residential and commercial single-stream processing facility in Colorado. It has retained that distinction, expanding in 2011 and again this year.

In 2011, it installed a commercial, single-stream processing line to accompany its original residential one. This year, it invested $5 million by replacing the older residential line with a state-of-the-art Machinex processing system that can handle both residential and commercial material. In addition to Machinex equipment, the facility has an OCC screen from Bulk Handling Systems on its commercial line.

On the back end, the system includes two balers, and commodities can be redirected from one to the other at the push of a button. One of the balers is a two-ram machine, the first in the U.S., according to Alpine.

“The design of many facilities causes bunkers to fill up when a baler goes down

Technical Specifications

Alpine Waste and Recycling’s Altogether Recycling facility

Location: Denver, Colorado

Start-up date: September 2007

Number of processing lines: Three

Throughput: 30 tons per hour

Throughput in 2015: Expected 80,000 tons

Residue rate: Roughly 8 percent
for maintenance, forcing a shutdown,” a company representative stated.

The facility handles a substantial amount of commercial material.

“Alpine is known primarily as a commercial waste and recycling hauling company,” according to the company. “Eight years ago when Alpine first opened its recycling operation, the company started with about 200 tons of material per month. Today, Alpine’s fleet picks up more than 2,600 tons of commercial recycling per month.”

Overall throughput was 70,000 tons in 2014 and is expected to grow to 80,000 tons this year.

About 70 percent is fiber and 22 percent containers, with residue making up the remaining 8 percent. The facility also processes source-separated materials, such as post-industrial plastics and scrap paper from commercial printers.

Some of the contamination issues it faces include plastic bags, hardened steel and other construction debris.

“Alpine engages in top-priority educational efforts to help customers remain aware of the problems that these contaminants can cause,” according to the company.

Altogether Recycling runs one full shift and a small second shift for baling materials five days per week.