

# New Challenges for Recycling

## --Residential Dirty MRFs

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# Paper Recycling Coalition

The Paper Recycling Coalition is a group of companies who have been working together for the past 25 years, many of which have been in the paper recycling business for more than a century. The companies are:

- Graphic Packaging International, Inc.
- KapStone Paper & Packaging Corporation
- Newman & Company
- Norampac, a division of Cascades Canada Inc.
- OX Paperboard
- PaperWorks Industries, Inc.
- Pratt Industries, Inc.
- RockTenn
- White Pigeon Paper Company

# Paper Recycling Coalition

The goal of the PRC is to ensure that government policies and programs do not inadvertently interfere with the domestic recovered fiber supply.

# What do we make?



Steven Griffin



# What do we make?



# What do we make?



# Residential Dirty MRFs

# What is a Residential Dirty MRF?

- ▶ A material recovery facility that collect all municipal solid waste AND recyclables in one container for subsequent processing.

Why is This a Problem?



# Remember What We Make!

Can we make those food packages and consumer items when they have been contaminated with some of the items commonly put into the garbage can?

NO



Baby and adult diapers



Kitty litter



Organic material like kitchen waste and grease



Animal waste



# Threats to the Fiber Supply

“The following materials are NOT allowed at ANY XYZ mill in ANY percentage.

## Source Contaminant Papers:

- ▶ Waste paper and board from hospitals contaminated with bio- hazardous material;
- ▶ Recovered paper and board which has been mixed with garbage destined for landfills and subsequently sorted out, rather than sourced from single and dual recycling streams;
- ▶ Secondary fiber from households containing used hygienic paper, such as used kitchen towels, handkerchiefs, facial tissue, toilet paper and diapers” .

# Actual RFP Language from a Mixed Waste Processing Facility

**XXXXXX** commodities are secondary post-consumer materials, recovered manually from municipal solid waste, and will not be technically perfect or completely free of contamination. It is the sole responsibility of the Purchaser to determine the suitability of **XXXXXX** materials for his purposes. **XXXXXX** will accept no responsibility for materials sold by **XXXXXX** as a certain grade and then resold by Purchaser as a higher grade, or for materials marketed by Purchaser to third parties or end users that have zero tolerance for items commonly found in municipal solid waste. In all such cases, Purchaser assumes sole responsibility for all costs associated with rejections, downgrades, sorting, disposal, and/or claims of any kind.

# Why is This Happening?



The amount of waste generated in the United States has increased steadily during the past 30 years. While, at the same time, municipal solid waste budgets have steadily declined.

# What is Recycling?

“I know it when I see it.” There are several widely used definitions of what recycling is and what it is not.

# What is Recycling?



eco, bio, green and recycle icons





# What is Recycling?

“Recycling is a series of activities by which material that has reached the end of its current use is processed into material utilized in the production of new products.”

# What is Recycling?

Are Dirty MRFs simply another option to get more recyclable material?

NO

# Who is supporting Residential Dirty MRFs?

- ▶ Communities that feel they have no waste management alternatives because of costs and other factors.
- ▶ Those who are interested only in utilizing the material one time for energy recovery or anaerobic digestion.
  - ▶ The volume and BTU value of plastics and paper, are essential in order to offset the negative value of things like glass and organics.

# Who Opposes Residential Dirty MRFs?

- ▶ The Recycling Industries Coalition consists of consumers of recyclable material, such as recycled paper, glass and metal manufacturers.
- ▶ PRC
- ▶ Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
- ▶ Steel Recycling Institute
- ▶ Glass Packaging Institute
- ▶ The National Recycling Coalition
- ▶ Numerous recycling industry companies
- ▶ State and local recycling organizations

## What Are the PRC and the Recycling Industries Coalition Doing About This?

- ▶ We stand ready to help communities throughout the United States to work to improve their existing recycling programs and evaluate their economics and practicalities of alternatives.

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