

Waste Management Announces Plan to Bring a Single Stream Recycling Facility in Metro Detroit

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Waste Management

Media

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Initiative Reflects Waste Management's Ongoing Efforts to Serve Customers

WIXOM, MI, August 9, 2011 - Waste Management of Michigan announced today a plan to bring a single stream recycling facility (SSRF) in the Detroit metropolitan area. Single stream recycling collection programs are expanding in southeastern Michigan, and to meet customer demand, this planned facility would process the increasing volumes of recyclable material generated by Waste Management's commercial and residential customers across southeast Michigan.

A single stream facility eliminates the need for customers to separate recyclable materials prior to collection, since sophisticated material-handling equipment inside the SSRF handles the task. According to Tom Horton, vice president, public affairs for Waste Management's Mid-West Group, this makes it easier for customers to recycle. Experience has shown that recyclable material volumes increase an average of twenty to thirty percent after customers switch to single stream collection. Waste Management has 35 SSRF's in operation across the country.

"This initiative reflects Waste Management's ongoing efforts to serve customers who want recycling and solid waste processing alternatives that supplement disposal services they rely on for non-recyclable waste. It is Waste Management's goal, as a company, to know and service our customers better than anyone in the industry, and extract more value from the waste stream. This facility reflects our commitment to both initiatives," Horton said.

Single-stream recycling streamlines and simplifies the process of collecting and processing recyclable materials. In a single-stream system, residents and commercial customers place recyclables in a single container for pickup and no longer need to separate these materials in their homes or workplaces. When recyclables arrive at a SSRF, advanced technology that includes magnets, screens and optical scanners is used to separate, sort and process the materials, which are then shipped out for reuse.

The Waste Management single stream facility will give the company processing control over a segment of its operations it has traditionally outsourced. This has become increasingly important, as demand for commodities of all types has increased, causing the demand for recyclable materials to rise.

"Recycling facilities must consistently produce clean, uniform material to secure long term contracts at the best rates. By operating our own facility, we can control each stage of the processing cycle and continue to build on our reputation for quality products," said Denise Gretz, area vice president for Waste Management's Michigan and Ohio Operations.



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This project is one of several being undertaken by Waste Management of Michigan as part of the company's broad investment in new technologies and innovative concepts to help customers extract more value from their waste and achieve a company sustainability goal of tripling its recycling volumes by 2020.

ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management, Inc., based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is the largest residential recycler in North America and a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more information about Waste Management visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com.

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