

Mission Possible

Paper Recycling at MRF's



Hello There!

- ▶ Dave Claugus, COO & an Owner of Pioneer Recycling
- ▶ 37 years of Recycling experience
- ▶ Pioneer operates two MRF's in Northwest



MRF Mission

- ▶ Process Residential Comingled Recyclables



MRF Paper Grades

- ▶ OCC– Old Corrugated Containers,
- ▶
- ▶ SCN– Sorted Clean News,
- ▶ MIX– Paper of all types,
- ▶ #52– Aseptic Packaging & Gable–Top Cartons,



Paper Is The Main Event

- ▶ OCC 25%
- ▶ MIX 50%
- ▶ #52 <.5%
- ▶ **TOTAL 75%!**

Basic Premise in MRF's

- ▶ “Everything Goes Everywhere”
 - Paper is in Plastic
 - Plastic is in Paper
- ▶ Past contamination levels of 5–12%



Post National Sword

- ▶ Mills want contamination in paper bales of 1–2%
- ▶ China wants $<.5\%$
- ▶ **Huge Challenge for MRF Processors!**



Quality Now Job #1

- ▶ Slowing Down
 - Improves quality at the price of less capacity
 - Increases cost per ton
- ▶ Adding Sorters (where possible)
 - Increases cost per ton
- ▶ Investing in New Equipment



Future of MIX Paper

- ▶ There is a future for Mixed Paper!
 - Paper makers are announcing new mills &/or new machines monthly
 - Responding to demand which will not be denied
 - Pricing will be significantly higher in 18–36 months as new projects come online



Don't Even Think About It!

- ▶ At 50% of volume, ending collection of MWP is equivalent of ending entire program!



Future Strategies for Paper Recycling at MRF's

- Basic Premise
 - Paper is 75% of the Comingled Stream
 - Must Save Paper Recycling !



Future Strategies Con't

- ▶ MRF's Invest in New Sorting Equipment
 - Primarily Optical Sorters
 - Mostly Retrofit Projects
 - Very Complex
 - Very Expensive



Future Strategies Con't

- ▶ Communities simplify & coordinate lists of acceptable materials
 - To improve paper quality!
 - Pioneer endorses WRRRA & ORRA list



Future Strategies Con't

- ▶ Haulers Help with Identifying “major offenders”
 - Dump Cams
 - Cart Audits
 - Corrado Devices

Future Strategies Con't

- ▶ States & Communities Recognize Value of Paper Mills “In Their Backyard”



Future Strategies Con't

- ▶ Consumers, Business & Government buy Recycled Content Products
 - Creates demand that “will not be denied”!



Parting Thoughts

- ▶ “As paper goes, so goes our recycling program”
- ▶ Future of Paper Recycling depends on achieving excellent quality
- ▶ Working together, we can improve paper quality significantly

