## Challenges of Glass Recycling

 in North America
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## 2016 SWANA Illinois Glass Markets Workshop

- Established in 1896 , SMI is the largest glass recycler in the U.S.
- Operates 39 glass recycling plants across North America; 18 plants receive MRF mixed glass
- Recycling over 2.75 million inbound tons of glass each year
- A top ten plastics processor



Recycling Earth's Resources

## SMI Final Product



Curbside supply has up to

50\% organics, 30,000 PPM ceramic , and is of mixed color


Final product must meet
$.15 \%-.25 \%$ organics,
< 50 PPM of ceramic,
and within color specifications

Recycling Earth's Resources


## Container Review



- Demand is off YOY slightly
- Industry currently at $30 \%$ an they want to increase to 50$60 \%$ min


## Why Use Cullet

- 20\% less air
- 50\% less water pollution
- Saves approx. 30\% energy
- Speeds up production


## Closed Loop ...

Glass Containers can be used over and over again endlessly.
Can be used at $95 \%$ recycled content. Lots of room for growth.

## Fiberglass Review



## Not Closed Loop but Saves energy continuously

- One six pack produces enough fiberglass insulation to fill a standard wall cavity.
- Boosting insulation by R-30 saves approx. \$600 per year every year


## Challenges...

## Before

## Today



- Evolving ton? . Percentage of 3 mix to straight color continues to increase.
- Blender
- $50 \%$ at mrf
- unprofitable . Costs have risen steadily to handle the lower quality single-stream glass.


## 3-MIX Quality Trends



3-MIX Quantity is increasing while Quality is Deteriorating

| Effects of Dirtier Supply | Cost Impacts |  |  |  |  | Countermeasures |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Labor | Utility | Other | R\&M | CapEx | Process Improvement | Equipment |
| More Inbound Testing |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Complete | n/a |
| Improved Storage |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Ongoing | Upgrade |
| Increased Loader Activity |  |  |  |  |  | n/a | n/a |
| Increased Labor to Reduce Contamination |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Ongoing | New |
| Slower Line Speeds (throughput) |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Lean Implementation | Upgrade |
| Decreased Sorter Performance |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Lean Implementation | Upgrade |
| Decreased Air Efficiency |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Lean Implementation | Upgrade |
| Lower Yields \& Increased Landfill |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Lean \& Inspection | n/a |
| Plant Design Capabilities Eroded |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Ongoing | New |
| Increased Failures |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Lean Implementation | Upgrade |
| Increased Re-work |  | 4 |  |  |  | n/a | Upgrade |
| Shorter Equipment Life |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Mpulse, Lean | Upgrade |
| Increased Maintenance Frequency |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Mpulse, Lean | n/a |
| Greater Outbound Testing |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Complete | n/a |
| Increased EH\&S Exposure |  |  |  |  |  | Yes, Ongoing | Upgrade |

## 3-MIX Single Stream Inbound Inspection



- Created incoming inspection program 2012 and implemented beta testing
- Rolled out internal testing in 2013 and started to share data with suppliers
- Tied pricing to incoming quality in 2014
- Started to install testing tables at suppliers who want to test prior to shipping to SMI


## Quality Reports (Tools)




## 3-MIX Single Stream Matrix (market specific)

- Trying to be open and transparent on pricing.
- Key drivers for our pricing is
- Non-Glass Residue \% and local landfill rates
- Undersize \%, plant capabilities and local disposal options
- Local vs Export markets
- Allows MRF's to evaluate economic value to improving/ deteriorating quality



## 3-Mix Single Stream - NGR \% in Tot Supply



Over 2 years of Quality Inspection Data


Over 3 years of Quality Inspection Data

## 3-MIX Single Stream Specification

| 3-MIX Single Steam Specification |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Criteria | Description | Examples | Target |
| NGR | Non-Glass-Residual found in municipal recycling program | Paper, Plastic, Aluminum, steel | 10\% Maximum |
| U/S | Undersize Glass particles < 3/8" $($ or $<1 / 8$ " $*$ ) | Mixed color glass particles | 12\% Maximum |
| Other Criteria |  |  | Target |
| Ceramics | Broken bits of household ceramic | Dinner plates, mugs, cups | .01\% Maximum |
| Color | Flint, Amber, Green(s) \& other | Food containers, beer bottles, wine/ soda bottles | See above table in Definition |
| Moisture | Excessive water mixed with glass** | Rain, snow, ice | 5\% Maximum |
| Excluded Waste | Other, possibly hazardous waste | CRT, radioactive, medical waste, heavy metals, etc. | 0\% (Zero) see 'Excluded Waste’ Definition |

## Publishing a new nationwide target specification for 3mix which

- Sets an achievable target for MRF operators
- Should help Cities \& Mrf operators to establish target specification and economic formulas

> All Incoming glass is not created equal

