

WASTE NEWS

Allied facility to take 1,500 tons a day

By Jim Johnson

Allied Waste Industries Inc. expects to eventually handle about 1,500 tons of construction and demolition debris per day at its new recycling facility in Chicago.

The \$8 million project is taking in 400 to 500 tons of commingled debris per day at this point, said Bob Kalebich, general manager for material recycling facilities and transfer stations for Allied. But he expects that number to increase to about 900 tons by the end of the year.

A dozen new jobs have been created at the site so far, and adding a second shift would add another 16 to 18 positions.

Allied Waste created the single-stream facility because Chicago now requires that at least 50% of C&D debris be recycled.

"We were hauling many of the larger builders here," Kalebich said. "In Chicago, one of the complaints when the ordinance did

come out was just a lack of space downtown; they were going to have to separate that material and have additional roll-off boxes and just couldn't do it."

Companies also were concerned about being able to make sure subcontractors adhered to the new recycling requirements.

By allowing waste generators to commingle their C&D debris, the new facility is helping them deal with the waste stream more easily while still adhering to the city's recycling requirements.

"With this new equipment, it has helped us easily achieve that 50%," Kalebich said. "Right now, we're probably in the learning phase of putting it all together. But we've been averaging anywhere between 65% and 70% recovery of material."

The company expects that number could eventually increase to 90%.

Allied Waste's new location not only handles material from within Chicago, but it also makes fi-

ancial sense to truck material from about a 50-mile radius. C&D debris is aggregated at company transfer stations and then shipped to the new location.

The company uses both automated and manual sorting to separate materials, including a water bath that allows heavier objects such as brick, concrete and metal to fall to the bottom while lighter materials such as wood float.

Wood accounts for about 30% of the current recyclable stream and is used to make mulch, animal bedding and alternate daily cover at landfills.

The company said the recycling center eventually will be a key source of wood at the Robbins Community Power Plant, a closed waste-to-energy site once operated by Foster Wheeler Corp. that is being transformed into a wood-burning power plant in the Chicago area.

Recycling C&D debris also is important for projects seeking green building certification through the



NEW FACILITY: Allied Waste Industries Inc. is opening a new \$8 million construction and demolition debris recycling center in Chicago, which now requires that at least 50% of such material be recycled.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program administered by the U.S. Green Building Council, Allied Waste said.

"The growing demand for building green requires a convenient, easy and cost-competitive service for recycling C&D," Kalebich said.

At capacity, Allied Waste expects to operate the recycling plant for 20 hours a day with four hours set aside for maintenance. ■

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