

KING OF COMMINGLED

ATLANTIC COAST RECYCLING INCORPORATES THE LATEST IN RECYCLING TECHNOLOGY TO SORT COMMINGLED MATERIALS FROM ITS MUNICIPAL RECYCLING PROGRAMS IN NEW JERSEY AND THE NORTHEAST.



A new 70Z7 with hydraulic grapple bucket moves the commingled recyclables from where the municipal trucks dump into bins for later processing.

Over the past decade, municipalities have found it more advantageous to administer recycling programs where the residents ‘commingle together’ the recyclables rather than place them separated at curb. Unfortunately, that leaves the separation of the recyclables to the processor, who must now sort and grade all the recyclable materials for sale to markets that will use the separated recyclables to make new products.

Atlantic Coast Fibers, LLC, the parent company of Atlantic Coast Recycling, is one of the largest privately owned recycling companies in the United States. The Rivello, Zozzaro and Gaccione families have been processing recyclables in New Jersey and New York for several generations.

“There used to be a huge market for old newspapers,” notes Larry Zozzaro, a partner in the company. “Today, it’s the combination of many types of material that we receive and process that makes us money.”

The company’s largest facility is a 100,000 square foot processing plant in Passaic, NJ with cutting-edge equipment that separates the materials with air, overhead electromagnets, eddy current separator for aluminum cans, multiple optical sorters to separate PET (water and soft drink bottles), HDPE (milk and laundry bottles), Polypropylene (yogurt and margarine tubs), a glass breaker/separator and—humans watching and pulling objects that made it past the automated sorting equipment.

Working 20 hours a day, the company processes an amazing volume, with separated materials bailed and loaded into waiting semi-trailers and containers for transport to both domestic and foreign markets day and night.

LOADERS RECEIVE ALL PRODUCTS

Municipal garbage trucks bring the commingled material to multiple local sites operated by Atlantic Coast where they simply dump and leave. “We call it poop and scoop,” laughs Harvey Straus, Manager of Trans-loading Operations. “Our trans-loading facilities receive all sorts of “Class A” traditional recyclables from both household and commercial accounts. All of these recyclables come in as a single stream, which saves trucking and collection costs for the municipality. But, you have to separate it.”



A Kawasaki-KCM 50ZV is used to push commingled recyclables into the processing plant for sorting.



“I think you get a real value with the Kawasaki-KCM loader.” Harvey Straus, Trans-loading Manager.

“Our Kawasaki-KCM loaders roughly separate and push the recyclables into different bins so our Municipal customers never have a wait,” notes Straus. “We then load our walking floor trailers with the recyclables for transport to our North Jersey processing plant in Passaic.”

“We use wheel loaders with a grapple instead of excavators because it’s almost impossible for an excavator to move quickly from bin to bin; and since excavators don’t have blades, we wouldn’t be able to scoop loose material into a pile. I think of a wheel loader like a universal wrench. it’s good at a variety of things.”

The company has found that they can trust their Kawasaki-KCM loaders to be so dependable that they do not budget redundancy. “We have one big loader at each facility,” confirms Straus. “and a compact loader for clean-up. Reliability is built into these machines and the Cummins engines are easy to maintain.”

The company’s 80ZIV-2 loader was bought first in an attempt to improve productivity over what the company had been using. It was purchased standard with the exception of the 4 yd. bucket with hydraulic grapples.

Solid tires were added to protect against glass punctures. The success of that loader, still in use, led to the purchase

of a 2nd loader, an 80ZV equipped the same. Recently, they selected a Kawasaki-KCM70Z7, similarly equipped for clean-up and other functions.

“It’s amazing what our grapple buckets can pick up and the weight these loaders can handle,” notes Straus. “I really like the new 70Z7. It’s very compact, and the visibility is great. The bucket is a little smaller, at 3.5 cu. yds., but you hardly see any difference in what it moves. Since we use it primarily indoors, it needs to be very maneuverable—and it is! Our walking floor trailers have 14 foot sides, so we decided to go with the high-lift package and bigger tires just to make sure we had plenty of clearance. The loader does a very good job of clearing the side.”

Being an old hand in the recycling business, Straus admits some partiality towards American engineered loaders. “I’ve been operating machinery since I was a young boy on my parent’s farm. Since those early days, I have had several decades of experience operating equipment in this industry. When I was investigating loaders recently, Larry Zozzaro suggested I look at the Kawasaki-KCM. I did. To say I was impressed and surprised would be an understatement. We got one and I can truly say it opened the door for two more. ***I think you get a real value with the Kawasaki-KCM loader.***”

“These loaders go to work, and stay at work. If you were here on any Wednesday, which is our peak day, you’d see Municipal trucks lined up like a parade waiting to dump. You’d also see the 70Z7 working hard, so trucks are in and out in a flash. The machine just flies”

KAWASAKI-KCM SUPPORT

“We’ve had very good luck with the Kawasaki-KCM loaders,” notes Larry Zozzaro. “I actually recommend them to everyone, and, I really like working with our dealer, Harter Equipment.”

“The people at Harter, have been great” says Straus, “They are not too large, which means I can always reach someone and they keep things simple. With some of the larger dealers, you have to go through a chain of people to get an answer to a question. Not so with Harter, decisions are made fast. I’m pleased however, that with the Kawasaki-KCM loaders, I really haven’t had a problem.”

Atlantic Coast Recycling is serviced by Harter Equipment, Inc., Millstone Township, New Jersey.