



TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator

CC: Larry Collins, Fire Chief
Craig Hupy, Public Services Area Administrator
Molly Maciejewski, Public Works Manager
Steve Schantz, Safety Manager
Cresson Sloten, Systems Planning Manager

DATE: August 10, 2017

SUBJECT: Ann Arbor MRF Update

As reported earlier this week, a small fire occurred at the City's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) on August 8, 2017. The MRF's fire suppression and alarm systems immediately activated and staff from the City and Recycle Ann Arbor safely evacuated the building. The fire was small but due to the nature of the facility and operations, had potential to spread quickly. The City and Pittsfield Fire Departments promptly responded and extinguished the fire.

The City and Recycle Ann Arbor quickly developed a plan to ensure no collected recyclable material was diverted to the landfill while the MRF was closed. The tip floor at the MRF had a significant amount of material at the time of the fire. Fortunately, that material is salvageable and is being sent to Rumpke's single stream processing facility in Cincinnati as usual. Four collection trucks were full at the time of the fire. Material from those trucks was sent to Western Washtenaw Recycling Authority for processing. On Wednesday, a bay at the City's transfer station was partitioned off and used to empty trucks and loose load all of Wednesday's collected material. The transfer station had capacity to accept and transfer just one day of material, but fortunately, necessary systems were restored at the MRF and today the MRF was open for loose loading operations.

The fire burned some wires and the conveyor that leads to the baler. The baler does not appear to be damaged, but this has not yet been confirmed. The baler and conveyor will remain offline until they are thoroughly inspected by a qualified technician. Until the baler and conveyor are operational, all collected material is being sent to Cincinnati for single stream processing.

The cause of the fire is unknown, but remains under investigation. We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.