WHAT IS SECONDARY SORTATION AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Secondary sortation allows the recycling system to capture even more recyclables that would otherwise be landfilled.

50 PERCENT OF LANDFILL-BOUND MRF RESIDUAL COULD BE RECOVERED



"Northeast Secondary Sorting Study," a new report studying secondary sortation in the NE, found that an additional 52,000 tons of recyclable materials could be recovered per year. In the Northeastern region, we estimate communities could see:

- An immediate 3 to 5 percent boost in recovery rate, reducing landfill costs and increasing revenues for the system
- A reduction in greenhouse gas generation by more than 130,000 tons per year
 - This is equivalent to taking more than 25,000 cars off the road annually

SECONDARY SORTATION IS A PLATFORM FOR INNOVATION



Secondary MRFs offer a more efficient and cost-effective solution to upgrade our material recovery infrastructure.



Harmonizing and expanding municipal recycling programs could significantly increase the volumes of materials available for recycling.



Secondary sortation could be a platform for other innovations, allowing us to deploy technology more quickly and efficiently – like digital watermarks.

HOW DOES SECONDARY SORTATION WORK?



First, recyclables are collected from residential and commercial locations to be taken to a materials recovery facility, or MRF.



Then, the remaining material that cannot be recovered at the MRF is sent to a secondary sorting facility.



Next, these recyclables arrive at the MRF. Once there, select recyclables are sorted and recovered.

Last, the materials collected will be measured, sorted, and marketed.

This process means that fewer recyclables will be sent to a landfill.

