

# Waste Management sells D.M. recycling plant



Timothy Meinch, [tmeinch@dmreg.com](mailto:tmeinch@dmreg.com) 4:08 p.m. CDT June 2, 2015



(Photo: The Register)

The primary recycling facility in the Des Moines metro has changed owners.

Houston-based Waste Management sold its recycling facility at 201 SE 18th St. to Mid America Recycling this week. The purchase revived the local recycling management company, which was bought out by Greenstar Recycling in 2007. Greenstar sold the Des Moines plant to Waste Management in 2013.

President and co-owner of Mid America Mick Barry said little will change at Iowa's biggest recycling plant, which employs roughly 70 people.

"From the public's perspective there won't be anything that will change," said Barry, who lives in Ankeny.

Barry is working with fellow recycling veteran Brian Meng, who is a co-owner of Mid America. He also worked for Mid America before its 2007 buy out.

The purchase in Des Moines is the second for the resurging Mid America management team since last year. In April 2014, they bought the Midland Recycling facility in Lincoln, Neb. Mid America also formerly operated that plant.

"It's a recycling of our old business back into business," Barry said.

Reo Menning, executive director with Metro Waste Authority, said she's excited about the local control that comes with the transaction.

Metro Waste, the city of Des Moines and other Iowa cities have regularly contracted Waste Management for recycling processing over the years. Mid America has absorbed many of those contracts.

"Mick is essentially a local guy who will own it," Menning said. "This facility will be more accessible for the media and tours and it will just be easier to have access."

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