

CRA Will Host 2nd Annual C&D Conference in Columbia

Last year, the CRA took on the challenge of organizing and hosting a conference for the building industry - a group of people who weren't necessarily in the recycling industry, and may not really know much about recycling. With the growth of the green-building movement, designers, owners, and contractors are learning a whole new set of "do's" and "don'ts", and can no longer do things "the way they've always been done". It seems that each year, more materials are banned from landfills, and disposal requirements grow even more strict. As LEED certification and other green-building standards have become the norm for new construction and renovations, C&D recycling has become an important way to gain points on projects, as well as meeting new legislative requirements.

In December, the inaugural Southeast Construction & Demolition Recycling Conference was held at the Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel in Charlotte, NC. With over 220 attendees, the inaugural conference was a resounding success, showing that there was a strong demand for C&D-related information in the building industry. As an added benefit, attendees were able to receive CEU credits from the US Green Building Council (USGBC), Solid Waste Association of North American (SWANA), and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) for attending various conference sessions and tours.

Building on this success, the CRA is excited to announce the 2nd Annual Southeast Construction & Demolition Debris Recycling Conference. This year the conference will be held December 6-8, 2011 and will move to "famously hot" Columbia, SC, at the Downtown Marriott.

Drawing on the expertise of government staff, as well as volunteers from government, private business, and non-profits, the conference committee is drawing together a wealth of information to be presented in December. As the program agenda is finalized, we will again be submitting the tour and sessions to the USGBC, SWANA, and NAHB for CEU approval.



The Southeast
Construction &
Demolition Debris
Recycling
Conference

Columbia
Marriott Downtown
Columbia, SC
DECEMBER 6-8, 2011

PRESENTED BY

- Carolina Recycling Association
- S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control
Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling
- N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach
- University of North Carolina – Charlotte
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4

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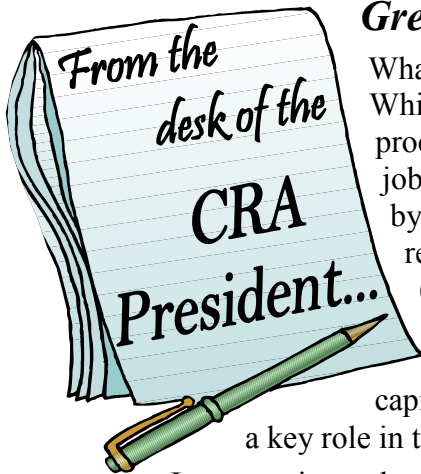
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Once again, the conference will bring together the three key stakeholders:

- the building industry (builders/contractors, architects/designers, engineers),
- government (local, state, and federal), and
- the recycling industry (haulers, processors, manufacturers),

giving them a chance to network, share information, and learn from each other.

We invite you to visit www.cra-recycle.org to find out more about the C&D conference. Also, if your company is interested in being a part of the conference, we are still accepting exhibitors and sponsors. We hope to see you in Columbia in December!



Greetings Fellow Recyclers,

What an exciting time for our industry. Materials have seen record highs of late. While there are some seasonal fluctuations, markets remain strong. Plastics processing capacity in the Carolinas has expanded significantly this year, creating jobs and strengthening our local markets. A large, new E-Scrap processor will open by the end of the year. Metals and paper continue to add jobs and value to the regional economy. NC Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach (DEAO) released their biennial jobs study this summer, quantifying a 7% growth in the number of recycling jobs from 2008 to 2010. Job growth in a recession! SC's Department of Commerce has documented continued investment in capital for recycling and manufacturing that depends upon it. Our industry is playing a key role in the nation's economic recovery.

Increases in market availability come from innovation and realization. As I write this, I am at a three day conference on Caps and Closures. There are 350 Billion caps used in the US annually. Though small, that's a lot of material. Our process facilities can now separate the cap material from the bottle material.

The Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers has issued the position that we should "Leave the Caps On." If caps are left on the bottles, they can be captured, processed and recycled. We also have new collection for cartons and aseptic packages. The fiber content is high quality and sought by companies here in the Carolinas. So now the challenge for us is to reverse twenty plus years of telling everyone to throw these items away. We have our work cut out for us, but we continue to have new opportunities for improved material management and the added creation of new jobs.

So now we turn our attention to the Construction and Demolition waste streams. The construction industry is responsible for 75% of all raw material extraction. Tremendous opportunities abound. Building on the success of last year's Southeast Construction and Demolition Recycling Conference, produced by the CRA, the second annual event promises to be bigger yet. The Columbia Marriott, where we will host the conference, is just up the street from the Statehouse. It is also just a short walk to the Vista, a remarkable demonstration of successful downtown revitalization. This show brings together the efforts of the CRA, the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), the NC DEAO and the US EPA - Region 4. The team has gathered an impressive group of speakers to address successes, obstacles, and opportunities relating to C&D. Registration is open. Join us there.

Once is not enough,

Will Sagar, CRA President



A huge **"Thank You"** to Coca-Cola Recycling and their continuous support for CRA. At the annual conference, Coca-Cola Recycling presented the CRA and Emerge Technologies with a check to fund hosting for CRA's website through the Ecoville site. If you haven't checked it out recently, be sure to visit the site at www.cra-recycle.org.

From right: Neha Patel with Coca-Cola Recycling, her son Aaric, CRA President Will Sagar, and Rick Penner with Emerge Technologies.

C&D Conference Registration Scholarships Available from NC DEAO

The NC Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach is offering up to 5 scholarships to cover registration for the upcoming Southeast C&D Recycling Conference. Only North Carolina local governments (counties and municipalities) are eligible and only one application will be accepted per jurisdiction. Scholarships cover only the cost of registration; all other travel costs are the responsibility of scholarship recipients.

Applicants can send in requests for a registration scholarship to Scott Mouw at scott.mouw@ncdenr.gov. Be sure to include the specific name of the scholarship recipient and information on why the scholarship is needed. Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis and all successful applicants will be notified to proceed with registration. If you have any questions, please contact Scott at 919-715-6512.

Upcoming Training from SC DHEC

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling is planning on offering two certification courses in February 2012.

For the first time, a two-day certification course specifically designed for and targeting college and university recycling professionals will be available.

In addition, the three-day S.C. Recycling Professionals Certification will be offered for the fourth time. Both courses will include the latest information including best management practices, trends, data, the electronics recycling ban and pending legislation.

Dates are not finalized, but more information will be announced as it is available. If you have questions, email [Richard Chesley](mailto:Richard.Chesley@DHEC.gov).

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The U.S. Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled a National Prescription Drug Take-back Day on Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event is being held to provide individuals with an opportunity to properly dispose of unwanted prescription drugs.

The DEA is partnering with state and local law enforcement agencies to coordinate collection sites across the country. S.C. law enforcement agencies that wish to host a collection site, should contact Barbara Heath at (404) 893-7165. Please encourage your local law enforcement agency to consider participating in this event. If the October event does not provide enough time to prepare, the DEA coordinates collection events every 6 months and perhaps your local law enforcement agency can participate in the Spring 2012 event.

Visit www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback after mid-September for a list of collection sites for the October event.

RMDAC/SCRC Meeting

September 20, 2011

10 am-2 pm

Columbia, SC

Contact Chantal Fryer cfryer@scommerce.com

RMDAC Recycling Symposium

November 8, 2011

8 am – 2 pm

Columbia, SC

Contact Chantal Fryer cfryer@scommerce.com

Columbia Pilots Restaurant Recycling Program

The City of Columbia is beginning a pilot program this month to collect clear, brown and green glass from bars and restaurants within the city limits.

The goals of the program, funded through a \$100,000 grant from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling, are to set up successful glass recycling programs at 60 businesses and increase the glass recycling rate by 25 percent.

Businesses were targeted in certain areas of the city (e.g., Five Points, the Vista Main Street, Harbison and North Main). In August, these businesses were sent a "recruitment" letter explaining the program and asking for voluntary participation. Each participating business receives free recycling containers, a packet outlining the benefits of recycling as well as guidelines on setting up a successful glass recycling program. The city will pick up the glass at no charge. Businesses are required to sort the glass by color.

A 2011 study by the National Restaurant Association revealed that nationwide more than one out of five restaurants recycle glass, cardboard, paper and other materials. In addition, 60 percent of the consumers surveyed indicated a preference for patronizing bars and restaurants with recycling programs in place.

Participation in the glass recycling program has the potential to reduce overhead costs for waste disposal for these businesses by decreasing the number of roll carts needed for garbage or the frequency that a commercial dumpster must be emptied.

Interestingly, the businesses that were the first to sign up have consistently said that they are recycling because they feel that it is the right thing to do, not because of any cost savings.

Most of the grant funding was used to purchase both indoor (Slim Jims) and outdoor collection bins (96-gallon roll carts). Each business receives a bin for each color of glass in order to sort the glass by color for collection. The city will provide pick up to the businesses each Tuesday and Friday.

In addition, the program will include an outreach campaign to encourage participation and increase public awareness of the recycling initiative. Participating businesses will receive a "door seal" to promote the program and the business.

Information on the program will be available on the city's Web site. In about three months, the city will follow up with participating locations to evaluate and make any necessary changes.



Construction & Demolition Recycling Study

A C&D recycling study was conducted by the [SC Recycling Market Development Advisory Council](#) (RMDAC) with support from the [SC Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling](#). The C&D reuse and recycling industry is an important part of SC's recycling economic ecosystem. A survey of the industry estimated the total impact of the C&D recycling industry is over \$250 million, contributing over 5,000 jobs to SC's economy. In addition, leading C&D recycling companies responding to the survey expect the industry to grow at an above average rate. Over 100 firms have been identified as part of this industry. More results of the study will be made available soon from the [SC Department of Commerce](#).

SC Updates

Local Government Warning - Electronics Recycling Legislation

As of July 1, 2011, residential computers, computer monitors, printers and televisions (including those collected through local government programs) must be recycled by a recoverer that – at a minimum – complies with the responsible recycling practices (R2/RIOS) or other comparable industry or governmental standards (S.C. Code of Law, 48-60-140). The draft regulation includes other requirements that will be placed on recoverers (e.g., registration and financial assurance) once it is approved.

Local governments that only consolidate residential electronic equipment prior to transferring it to a compliant recoverer are exempt from the recoverer requirements listed above provided they do NOT disassemble the equipment prior to transfer. If a local government disassembles any electronic equipment for the purpose of recycling, all recoverer requirements – including those mentioned above – apply to the local government. **As a result, local governments that engage in these disassembly activities may find themselves becoming generators/handlers of hazardous/universal waste. Improper management of these types of waste could subject them to appropriate penalties under RCRA hazardous waste regulations.** If disassembly occurs, local governments also are likely to have difficulty in finding recoverers willing to properly manage the remaining material.

Joint Recycling Initiative

The SC Recycling Market Development Advisory Council, SC Recycling Council, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Carolina Recycling Association, Solid Waste Association of North America-SC Chapter and Southeast Recycling Development Council formed a partnership to help advance glass recycling in SC. This joint recycling committee will engage stakeholders and explore market development strategies within the state.

Share the Load

A pilot recycling project for companies within the [SC Technology and Aviation Center](#) (SCTAC) in Greenville, South Carolina, is ready to get underway through the efforts of the SC Recycling Council (SCRC) and the SC Department of Commerce's Recycling Market Development Advisory Council (RMDAC). Share the Load provides SCTAC companies the opportunity to share freight, combine recycling loads, reduce costs, handling and helps minimize the amount of material being landfilled. Participating companies split the cost of truckload freight and receive a once-a-month, routed pick-up of small quantity recyclable packaging and other materials in the SCTAC footprint. Corporate partners in the program are [Cytec](#), [3M](#), [Michelin](#) and [Lockheed Martin](#). For more information contact SharetheLoad@SCcommerce.com.

SC Law to Help Deter Scrap Metal Theft

On August 17, 2011, a law became effective that was designed to help reduce scrap metal theft in South Carolina. Among other things, the law requires metal recyclers who pay for non-ferrous metals and people or entities (with some exceptions) that transport or sell non-ferrous metals to these recyclers to obtain permits from the local sheriff's department. The law also details record-keeping requirements for scrap metal recyclers. The law can be found at www.scstatehouse.gov/sess119_2011-2012/bills/3660.htm.

NC Updates

Local Governments Receive State Grant Funding

The Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach has awarded \$795,885 in funding for 43 projects under its Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant program. Many municipalities and counties continue to show leadership in expanding recycling opportunities for their citizens, with a number of projects initiating collection services at a variety of away-from-home venues, including:

- Onslow County and the cities of Burlington, Kannapolis, Kernersville and Asheville will implement recycling in their public park systems.
- The City of Charlotte will establish recycling at its CATS light rail stations.
- Henderson County and the City of Hendersonville will collaborate to put in place a "Main Street" recycling program. Chapel Hill and the City of Locust will also add recycling to downtown pedestrian areas.
- Cherokee and Polk counties will start up recycling programs serving the major medical facilities in their communities.
- Rocky Mount will extend recycling services to its sports fields and to multi-family housing.

DEAO also funded seven projects to help communities put in place electronics recycling programs and four projects to recycle shingles.

The Community Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant program is funded by the partial proceeds from North Carolina's \$2 disposal tax. For more information the program, contact Rob Taylor at 919-715-6528 or rob.taylor@ncdenr.gov.

DEAO to Continue Cart Grant Program in FY12

The Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach will maintain its grant program to assist local curbside programs transition from bins to carts or start new cart-based curbside collection services. Although the total available funding has not yet been determined, the basic program parameters will stay the same. DEAO will evaluate proposals on a first come, first serve basis and make awards to fundable projects at the rate of \$25 per cart up to \$75,000 in total funding. For more information on the Cart Grant program, contact Joe Fitzpatrick at 919-715-6499 or joseph.fitzpatrick@ncdenr.gov

Heather Cashwell Welcomed to the DEAO Team

The Division of Environmental Assistance and Outreach is pleased to welcome Heather Cashwell as the state's recycling outreach and education coordinator. Heather joins DEAO from the Town of Cary, where she served as the volunteer coordinator and educator for Town's litter and recycling programs. Heather will assume responsibility for the Recycle Guys, RE3, and RecycleMore campaigns and will work with community recycling programs to strengthen public education efforts. In addition, Heather will lead DEAO's efforts to spread recycling opportunities to away-from-home locations such as parks, events, and sports and entertainment venues. You can reach Heather at 919-715-6507 or heather.cashwell@ncdenr.gov.

DEAO Video: Understanding a MRF

In a commingled system, citizens throw all their recyclables into a bin and are often unaware, confused and sometimes even cynical about how those mixed materials are eventually recycled. The Materials Recovery Facilities where they are headed can also be a complex place to explain to the average citizen. Connecting the dots about what happens to recyclables after they leave the curb is an importance piece in creating buy-in for recycling programs.

To facilitate that education, NC DEAO and the Recycle More NC campaign have created a new, three minute video that uses catchy graphics and easy to understand narration to walk viewers through the fascinating process of materials separation at a MRF. This tool can be linked to recycling websites, used in presentations for community groups or schools and included in outreach materials. Additionally, two accompanying posters have been created that illustrate the process in diagram form. You can find the video online [here](#) or you can email heather.cashwell@ncdenr.gov to receive electronic versions of the files.

Perspectives

On the Ground

Disclaimer: *The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Carolina Recycling Association.*

In a recent webinar conducted by Gershman, Brickner and Bratton, (GBB), long-time consultants in the solid waste industry, Harvey Gershman, one of the firm's principals, stated that GBB has identified over 170 technologies under consideration world-wide to convert mixed solid waste back to a resource and over five hundred projects in some form of development. From his research, none of them apparently, except for mass burn, has achieved significant scale (more than 100 tons a day) at a reasonable cost and reliability yet. Most recently the highly touted, heavily reviewed ReVenture Project in Charlotte again reduced its scope from twenty megawatts to ten. A private company in Israel with Russian, Korean and Japanese investors has a plasma arc facility operating at 24,000 tonnes a year, but it's predominantly for medical waste and costs \$950 to \$1200 per tonne to operate, according my recent 'Skype' visit with the company's president. Nonetheless, governmental agencies including the US DOE along with the US Department of Agriculture are funding large scale projects banking on these as-yet unproven technologies. At the same time, the greenhouse gas reducing benefits of plain old recycling, not to mention reuse and reduction are getting short shrift in any Federal policy discussions or analyses. Time to speak up folks, and time to consider using metrics other than weight for evaluating program performance. What happens when glass is eliminated from a program? What happens as containers are light-weighted? And don't forget to mention job creation generated from recycling, citing the recent report by North Carolina's Division of Environmental

Assistance and Outreach and South Carolina's Department of Commerce/Clemson University study. While many of us on the progressive wing of the recycling party are tiring of the current political atmosphere that demonizes governments' roles in environmental protection, not to mention any other

Time to speak up folks, and time to consider using metrics other than weight for evaluating program performance.

activity, it does not mean we can just give up. In addition to staying politically involved, another tonic and antidote is direct action and never failing to point out to local governments or businesses when they can do better at waste management. Locally is where the solid waste action always is.

I illustrate this point from a Memorial Day weekend trip to Surf City NC where our little hotel, the Island Inn, didn't have recycling

readily available for the guests. I presented the owner/manager with a few of the beverage bottles we'd generated and asked genially if she could recycle them. She gladly complied, but there was no recycling readily apparent for guests to use. I followed up, asking if she would accept from me a recycling bin for use by guests. All the rooms on our wing opened on to a common patio that had a trash can but no recycling bin and as you might expect I soon tired of seeing all those beverage containers trashed.

She accepted. I went off to the Family Dollar and bought a bright green 18 gallon tote and borrowed her Sharpie to decorate the tote with the slogans "Recycle Cans and Bottles Here" and "No Trash". I also gave her a couple of the NC-produced stickers for the trash cans reminding guests that it's illegal to landfill aluminum cans and plastic bottles in North Carolina. Her housekeepers slapped them on the trash cans.

By next evening, the green recycling bin was full with cans and bottles and a bit of

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cardboard; to my delight no trash was in it. As we checked out, I asked her if it had worked out OK and she seemed fine with the new arrangement. Two weeks later I called to follow up. Not only had she gotten a 64 gallon recycling roll cart from the City to handle the increased volume from the hotel that didn't fit in her home's cart, but she had moved the green tote over by the hotel pool and it was being well-used there.

I had thought recycling roll carts were issued only for residents as in most communities. Surf City as a beach town has only about 2,000 year round residents, but ten times as many summer visitors. Commercial establishments are generally, as in most of NC, on their own to get recycling and trash service. The owner of Island Inn told me that the Town had determined that it was a good idea for the hotels, which they deemed residences of a sort, to have recycling as part of the public recycling program. Perhaps coincidentally and perhaps not, I'd also written to the Mayor and Town Council after that trip because I was appalled that there was no recycling at any of the public access points to the beach -- plenty of trash cans conveniently placed right at the stairs over the dunes, but no recycling. So my moment of rejoicing and reducing despair at the deteriorating state of the planet had cost me only \$6.50 plus tax for the tote, a much lower price than therapy and a bit more effective.

Is it true if 'we' build it 'they' will come? At the CRA conference, PET pundit Mike Schedler said that if there were some way to gather 40 million pounds of plastics annually in one spot and guarantee that flow for five years, investors could be found for an omnibus plastics recovery facility of some kind.

Converting that seemingly huge number it's less than three pounds per person or 200,000 tons; that's about 1.5 % of all the MSW in the Carolinas last year. Recent analysis of waste composition studies from eleven states by NC State garbage researcher Morton Borlasz showed plastics to be from 22 percent to 34 percent of all MSW, so getting 5 percent of the plastic out there should be a practical threshold. Most of that could be sourced within 150 miles of Charlotte, or a one day turn-around in a truck.

So could we do it? Should 'it' include a plastics-back-to-oil conversion facility along with the straight recycling for all those plastics that can't effectively be recycled? Invoking some type of Extended Producer Responsibility might induce or require the various plastics producers and distributors to capitalize such a facility as a way to meet 'their obligations'.

Otherwise, 'it' all falls on the public sector to figure out how to divert a separate stream of plastics and get them to a central point for some undefined purpose. As we seem to be reaching some plateaus nationally in conventional recycling rates, we'll have to look much harder at a broad variety of alternatives and policies for turning waste into wealth especially when it's derived from oil.

Have a great summer.

Blair Pollock is a Solid Waste Planner with Orange County (NC) Solid Waste Management.

Questions, comments, or things you would like to see in future newsletters?

We want to hear from you - drop us a line at

staff@cra-recycle.org,
or call us at 877-972-0007.



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