

## Whither C&D World 2021... And That Election

Trying to cover two subjects this month, and provide some insight on the next CDRA Annual Meeting and what the election results will mean for the recycling industry. In a nutshell, the answer pretty much is up in the air on both of them.

For C&D World 2021, to be held March 21-23 in Austin, no decision has been made whether to go forward on those dates or move it until later in the year. If staying in March, the meeting will not be held as before, but instead with more outdoor events and more social distancing for indoor events, along with live streaming of the presentations. You probably have noticed that some conferences have gone completely virtual next spring, and a few have gone strictly outdoors. But C&D world has always emphasized quality sessions over equipment displays, so holding everything outside alone won't work. Strictly a virtual meeting also won't work, because our group likes to get together and network. In general, attendees don't compete with each other because C&D is such a regional business, so the exchange of information has always been tremendous, and the vendors manning the booths in the exhibit hall are always appreciative of the quality of our attendees.

It is worth noting here that the sponsors for C&D World 2021 have already stepped forward to support the show, and like everyone else, can't wait to get together. This weighs against the risk that companies will still have travel bans, and no one will want to get on an airplane to come to a meeting.

The other option is to move the meeting to September in the hopes it can be held in the familiar manner it always has been. While the recent announcements of effective vaccines are heartening, there is no guarantee they will be widely accepted and distributed by then, and people will be ready to travel like before. Plus we would be bumping up against many other meetings that also moved to later in the year.

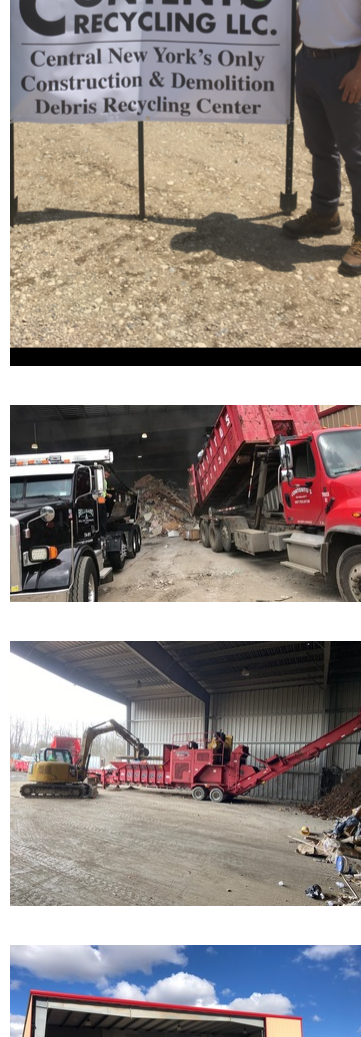
You might have noticed we recently polled the membership on their thoughts on holding the meeting. The results came back solidly ambiguous. No real stark choice was evident and provided no guidance. In the next week or so a decision will be made on how to hold C&D World 2021. Stay tuned. And no matter what, the CDRA will still be there for the C&D recycling industry, doing the work needed to support those in the business. Just that we will probably be taking a financial hit, we will still need your support, so please remember to renew your company's membership dues so we can continue to help.

As for the recent election's effect on recycling, a real reckoning won't be known until after the runoff in Georgia U.S. Senate races to see which party has control of what. That matters, because the Green New Deal could be considered, and that reaches far beyond recycling. What will be interesting to watch is if the U.S. EPA will continue its good work of the past three years in supporting the recycling industry. Say what you will about the Trump Administration's environmental record, but no previous administration has tried to do as much to support the recycling industry in general than the current one. We should all hope that the incoming administration continues the current programs surrounding America Recycles Day.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Executive Director William Turley at [turley@cdrecycling.org](mailto:turley@cdrecycling.org); 630-258-9047.

### CDRA Member Spotlight:

**Anthony Contento**  
**Contento Recycling**  
**Cortland, NY**



#### What materials do you recycle? Can you describe the volume and types of incoming materials you process?

Currently we have been able to divert and recycle all types of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal, cardboard, clean wood, concrete, and at times small amounts of gypsum wallboard. Currently we are processing between 25-45 tons of material per day.

#### How did you get started in the business?

In 1950 my grandfather started an auto dismantling and demolition business in Homer, NY. Over time it grew into one of Central NY's largest auto salvage yards, then a full-service scrap metal recycling operation. Over time, as my father got more involved, we got much heavier into demolition and then began renting roll off containers for scrap metal and C&D. By the time I graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2016, we had plans to add a C&D sorting facility. It was the next logical expansion for our business being that we were already taking 10,000s of tons of C&D debris to the landfill annually.

#### What are the biggest challenges in your market and C&D Recycling?

Our biggest challenge is that our immediate local market is not that large. We operate in Cortland County, which only has 40,000 residents. Additionally, we struggle with an abundance of landfills in the Central NY region and relatively low tipping fees compared to the rest of the North East.

#### Where are the biggest opportunities?

Fortunately, we are one of the only companies in the Central NY region that accepts comingled C&D debris and processes it with the intention of diverting it from the landfill. This gives us a unique advantage over other waste haulers and landfills. We hope to be ingrained in C&D recycling and be a regional leader influencing others to send C&D to a recycling facility, rather than a landfill.

#### How long have you been a member of CDRA?

I've been a member of the CDRA since 2018, the year we first opened our C&D facility.

#### What inspired you to join CDRA?

When I began building a business plan to open our C&D recycling facility I came across the CDRA and knew that if I was going to be successful in C&D recycling I needed to learn from people who are already doing it all across the country.

#### What do you find most rewarding about working in this industry?

Coming from a recycling background, it's always rewarding to see material kept out of the landfill. Even more so than that, I really enjoy seeing all the different items and building materials we are able to salvage for reuse or up-cycling.

#### What challenges have you faced over the years and how have you overcome them?

While we are relatively new to C&D recycling, my family has been in scrap metal recycling for 70 years. We know the perils of markets for your products shriveling up, prices for commodities fluctuating immensely, and how major global economic factors can really affect our business.

#### What's something about you (a fun fact) that not many people know?

A fun fact that people may not know about me is that when I'm not working I really enjoy playing lacrosse. Since I was 12 years old I have been playing lacrosse year round. I played in college and (in a non-Covid year) I still play year round both indoor and outdoor.

#### How do you think the industry is changing and what trends do you see coming up on the horizon?

I'm optimistically hoping that we will see an increased participation in C&D recycling across the country. With the struggles that single stream recycling it could be a good opportunity for C&D recycling to gain some more traction. With increased municipal participation in C&D recycling and some regulatory help at the state or federal level we could see a large amount of growth in the C&D recycling industry in the next few years.

#### What advice would you give to someone interested in this industry?

My best advice to someone in C&D recycling (or any form of recycling for that matter) is to be diverse. It's always easier to start as a waste hauler or roll off company or demolition contractor before you invest in C&D recycling. It gives you more diverse income streams and helps stimulate organic growth into the C&D recycling industry.

#### Best piece of business advice you've gotten or learned over the years?

Probably some of the best advice I've received is to be patient and do what makes the most sense in the region you operate. Depending on the size of your company it can be overwhelming getting into this industry. There are so many opportunities that require all sorts of different resources. You need to capitalize on what your geographical area has to offer and stay focused.

Would you like to have your company in a spotlight like this? Contact CDRA Executive Director William Turley at [turley@cdrecycling.org](mailto:turley@cdrecycling.org); 630-585-7530.

## John Davis to Become President, MORA

John Davis of CDRA member LEDR has been voted in as President of the Missouri Recycling Association. Davis served several years on the CDRA board and is a founder of LEDR, a mixed C&D processor in St. Charles, MO.

## Demolition New Orleans:

### A Reimagined Outdoor Event

Join the National Demolition Association for our Annual Convention – [Demolition New Orleans](#) – March 3-4, in New Orleans, LA. To prioritize the safety of attendees while following state and national health guidelines, NDA has reimagined the 2021 convention.

Demolition New Orleans will be a two-day, outdoor experience with an expanded Live DEMOlition Event.

What to Expect:

- Meet with a variety of vendor companies and test their equipment capabilities during the Live DEMOlition Event
- Gain hands-on experience and learn best practices for the full lifecycle of job site management during pre-convention workshops
- After months apart, socialize with your colleagues and friends in a controlled and safe environment
- Explore the Exhibitor Pavilion, which will feature outdoor tents and will host industry suppliers and vendors

This year's event may look and feel different, but we are excited to come together as a community to advance demolition best practices.

Registration for Demolition New Orleans is opening this week! Visit the [NDA website](#) to learn more about the convention schedule and our safety protocols.

## CDRA Members

### Renew Your Membership Today!

Thank you for your continued support of CDRA and our mission to improve and advance the C&D industry. We encourage you to renew your membership today and take advantage of all the great benefits your membership provides.

**Membership benefits expire on December 31, so don't delay!**

Not a CDRA member? We hope you'll consider [joining the CDRA community](#) and help us move our mission forward.

[Renew Today!](#)

## Industry News

Great new study from Vermont on a successful use of recycled asphalt shingles in gravel roadways. Shingles were provided by CDRA member Myers Waste and Recycle:

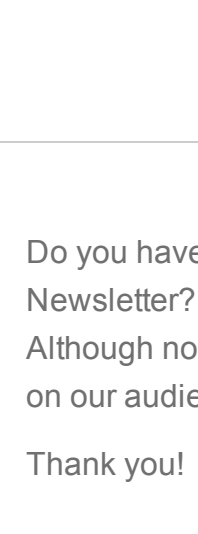
[https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/20201013\\_RAS%20Final%20Report.pdf](https://vtrans.vermont.gov/sites/aot/files/20201013_RAS%20Final%20Report.pdf)

Usually these quarterly reports from big companies to analysts can be boring, but interesting info from Waste Management's most recent:

<https://www.wastedive.com/news/waste-management-q3-pandemic-advanced-integration-esg/588214/>

Is graphene a new market for C&D recyclers?

<https://www.waste360.com/recycling/can-graphene-waste-be-breakthrough-some-manufacturers>



**2021 C&D WORLD**  
Conference & Exhibition

**AT&T Conference Center Austin, TX**

**March 21-23, 2021**

Registration Opening Soon

## Submit Newsletter Content

Do you have industry content to be considered for CDRA's monthly e-Newsletter? We encourage you to submit ideas as often as you have them. Although not every news item is shared, we will review each submission based on our audience's interests and information needs.

Thank you!

[Submit Your News Item](#)

**Special Thanks to Our CDRA Sponsor Members**

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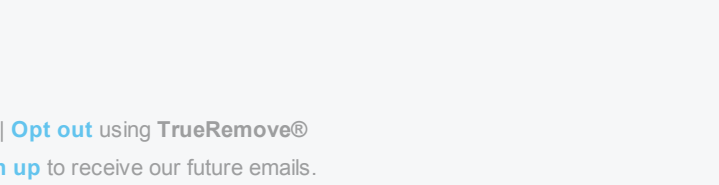
**PLATINUM**



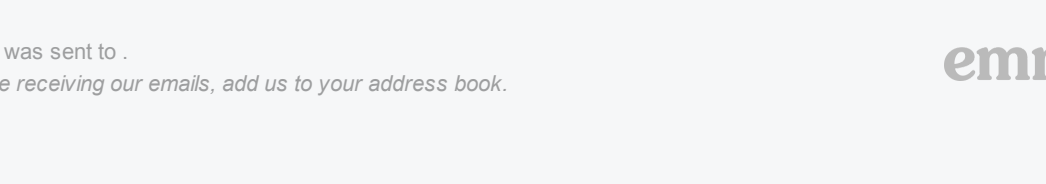
**RUBY**



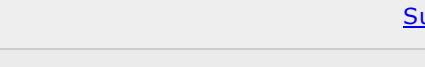
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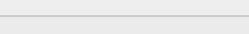


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