

We did it! CDRA goes forward with scheduled Annual Meeting and it turns out highly successful.

A spirited but smaller than usual crowd participated in C&D World 2021 March 21-23 in Austin. Those who attended were treated to a great and relevant program, an exhibit hall with vendors eager to talk to recyclers, and most importantly, a chance for C&D industry members to mingle and talk for the first time in a year. For almost all, it was their first business trip since the last C&D World in Las Vegas in March 2020.

Being the first meeting in the waste industry since the pandemic started presented logistical challenges, but the venue, the AT&T Center on the campus of the University of Texas, had been hosting a few events over a couple of months with no incidents, so they knew what protocols to put in place. Indeed, hotel staff later commended the C&D World attendees for following the required protocols, which everyone understood was necessary for the meeting to continue.

The show kicked off with a successful Technology Forum where several vendors presented on trends in the industry and equipment to meet those challenges. The next morning, the CDRA awards were presented, with Kim Williams of Marpan and Trey Brown of Big City Crushed Concrete being inducted into the Hall of Fame. Champion Waste & Recycling was awarded Recycler of the Year. John Thomas, R&B Debris, was honored as CDRA Member of the Year. Several safety awards were also handed out.

Keynote speaker Jason Schenker, a futurist and economist, said to expect tax hikes to pay for all the money spent for Covid relief and explained the issues associated with the Federal Reserve's current bloated balance sheet.

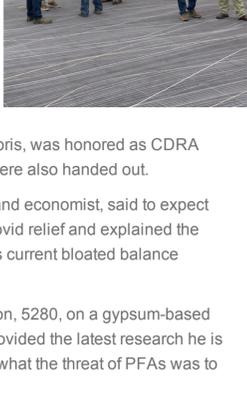
Other presentations came from Laurie Johnson, 5280, on a gypsum-based building block, and Dr. Timothy Townsend provided the latest research he is conducting for the CDRA on C&D fines, and what the threat of PFAs was to the C&D industry.

Troy Lautenbach, Lautenbach Recycling, and Brock Hill, Premier Recycle, discussed informally with the audience the importance of interacting with government officials, and how to do that properly, followed by Trey Brown sharing tips on how to run a successful aggregate recycling operation after nearly three decades of experience in that market. Laurie Johnson shared a detailed and useful presentation on government grant funding, followed by Kathy Powles, Falcon Green Resources, giving an update on the recycled shingle market, including a new end product.

Despite the smaller crowd, the fundraiser raised more than \$30,000 to support the CDRA's research and advocacy efforts.

Probably the highlight of the event was the tour of local recycler Recon. Besides having an interesting plant, Walter and Ross Biel used their professional-level, large-scale smoker to provide attendees with utterly delicious pulled pork and smoked sausages.

All in all, C&D World 2021 was a success and will be remembered as the first conference after the pandemic. See you next year in Atlanta!



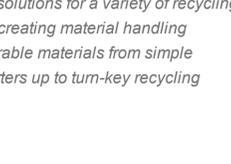
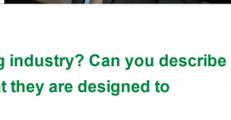
CDRA Member Spotlight:

Thomas Musschoot,

President

General Kinematics

Crystal Lake, IL



What is your company's role in the recycling industry? Can you describe the systems your company makes, and what they are designed to process?

General Kinematics creates material handling solutions for a variety of recycling and scrap handling applications. GK excels at creating material handling solutions for optimizing the diversion of recoverable materials from simple vibrating feeders before optical or magnetic sorters up to turn-key recycling facilities.

How did you get started in the business?

General Kinematics started in recycling in the late '80s / early '90s. This was when recycling began to gain popularity in the United States, and larger facilities began appearing. As facility capacity requirements grew larger, there was a need for high-volume material handling. With our experience in the metal casting industry, we knew how to build extreme-duty equipment that would perform and last in this new industry.

GK started with simple screening, and through time, it developed a standard in most successful C&D system operations, the FINGER-SCREEN™ primary screener and the DE-STONER® air classifier. From there, we have added on additional capabilities and separation technology and expanded our business with our GK Systems division, offering GK the ability to be a one-stop, turn-key supplier of recycling facilities.

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

Our biggest challenge in the industry is helping our customers deal with all the government regulations involved with starting a recycling business. Our customers are excited to get started recycling and are willing to invest in land, equipment, and employees. Still, they often run into roadblocks with local permitting processes, environmental regulations, and other government-mandated issues that delay their progress or stop their project completely.

Where are the biggest opportunities?

When you look specifically at the United States, there still is a lot of material going directly to the landfill without being sorted first. As our culture continues to look at how positive human behavior can impact the earth for the better, I believe more recycling will occur throughout the entire country, and not just on the coasts.

How long have you been a member of CDRA?

20+ years.

What inspired you to join CDRA?

We are invested heavily in seeing the industry succeed. Most of what runs over our systems and equipment can easily be diverted for other beneficial uses. Supporting an organization that helps bring awareness and fights for these issues benefits my company and our customers and, ultimately, leaves us with a cleaner and better planet.

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

It always amazes me to watch a house arrive in a roll-off, be processed through a GK recycling system, and have most of it be diverted for reuse. It seems so simple in theory, but there is a massive amount of effort to create the option for recycling instead of landfilling. Knowing we play a role in that diversion is a great feeling.

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

You would be surprised at how different waste streams are from state to state, town to town, and country to country. No two sorting systems are identical, so it takes a lot of trial and error to get it perfect sometimes.

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

I collect first and last commemorative castings from foundries, and have created an online museum documenting their history at www.thefinalshakeout.com.

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

Today, humans can still sort way more and way faster than robots or optical sorters. However, as the labor force continues to shift, I believe we will see an increased need for complete automation of the sorting process.

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

Make sure you have an end market for your diverted material. Even if you are sorting on the ground, there is money to be made in recycling if you have someone to buy your materials.

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

If you are serious about success in the recycling industry, don't go cheap when buying equipment. Downtime, maintenance, and other headaches will kill your throughput, bottom line, and the morale of your team.

Would you like to have your company in a spotlight like this? Contact CDRA Executive Director William Turley at turley@cdrecycling.org; 630-258-9047.

WasteExpo Moving Forward

Most of us have never experienced a pandemic before — or its consequences. But now, it's time to get back to business. And WasteExpo is taking steps to ensure your safety. For 50+ years, WasteExpo has provided the industry with comradery, opportunity, technology, and the most comprehensive education program in the industry.

So join WasteExpo at the leading solid waste and recycling event in North America, June 28-30, 2021 in Las Vegas.

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Industry News

Here's an update on OSHA's enforcement plans for protecting works from Covid: [OSHA Launches Program to Protect High-Risk Workers from Coronavirus](#)

This is a positive construction industry economic activity report: [ABC's Construction Backlog Indicator Rose Sharply in February; Contractor Optimism Builds](#)

Interesting assessment of a C&D ordinance in Pasadena: [Consultant Uncovers Significant Flaws in City's Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Program](#)

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](#)

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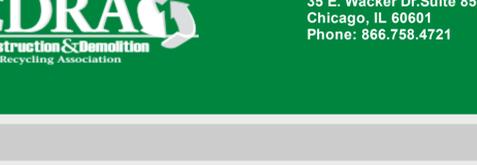
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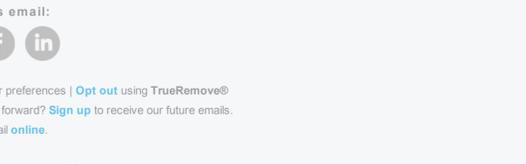
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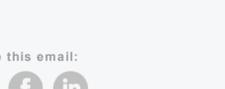
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