

## Notes From Nashville; CDRA Midyear Board Meeting

Moving the construction material recycling industry forward while interacting with members from across North America was the main actions of attendees at the CDRA's Midyear Board Meeting in mid-September in Nashville.

The format of the meeting was a bit different, with the various committees conducting their business within the overall framework of the board meeting. This allowed all the attendees to participate in the discussions of every committee.

Among the committee reports heard was the Gypsum Recycling Committee, which had two main presentations, one from Terry Weaver, USA Gypsum and Committee Chair, who gave a short market update, and Sean Plechy from the University of Florida further explained the updated Gypsum Recycling Protocol UFL is doing for the CDRA. This document should be soon available to members.

The Risk Management Committee discussed the ways it will increase its activities in the coming year, plus additions to the Safety Awards, including a new fleet management section. The CDRA Safety Awards are an excellent opportunity for a recycling business to gauge its safety program, and learn if there are areas for improvement in its program.



The End Markets Committee featured a presentation on Torxx's study (performed by UFL) on C&D fines processing and end uses. There are several promising opportunities that could use the products developed by this processing activity. The Shingle Recycling Committee discussed the Shingle Recycling Forum coming up Oct. 5-6 in Chicago. The program is set and registration is proceeding. The Membership/Marketing Committee went over current association marketing activities, strategies to increase membership next year, and the status of CDRA's new website, which should roll out before Nov. 1.

The meeting concluded with a tour of Rockwood Sustainable Solutions' facility that handles concrete, wood, and mixed C&D, and is directly across the street from an Aries Clean Energy Gasification Plant, which the attendees also toured.

The next meeting of the CDRA Board will be virtual on Dec. 15. Then we will meet face to face on March 14 in Las Vegas as part of C&D World 2023. Any CDRA member is allowed to participate in the board meeting or any of the organization's many committees. For more information, contact [info@cdrecycling.org](mailto:info@cdrecycling.org).

## Know Someone Worthy of Recognition in C&D?

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Applications for the Construction & Demolition Recycling Association Annual Awards program are now available. The awards are given to individuals and companies in C&D recycling who have made significant contributions to the industry. Nominations are due by Jan. 15, 2023, and submission forms are available by contacting [info@cdrecycling.org](mailto:info@cdrecycling.org).

Below are descriptions of the different awards. Nominations are reviewed and winners determined by a committee of the CDRA, and the awards are presented at C&D World, the association's annual membership meeting, which is Wednesday, March 15, 2023 in Las Vegas as part of ConExpo-ConAgg.

### C&D Hall of Fame

The Construction & Demolition Recycling Hall of Fame honors those individuals whose careers have best served the industry and the CDRA. Recyclers and vendors are eligible for the reward.

This institution honors those prominent leaders and pioneers in the Construction and Demolition recycling industry that have made extraordinary contributions to their community, both personally and professionally, and have earned the respect of the industry. It serves to recognize the achievements of those who have exemplified the importance of promoting and defending the environmentally sound recycling of

construction and demolition material through innovative processes and have encouraged and supported others to build a career in the industry. Finally, the Construction & Demolition Recycling Hall of Fame recognizes leadership in advocating for environmentally sound practices with the regulating agencies and legislative bodies that govern waste regulations.

Requirements for Candidates for the Hall of Fame:

- Candidates must exemplify leadership, defined as outstanding and enduring contributions to the success of the industry and to improving the processes, efficiencies, and/or the human relations of the industry in an active capacity for a minimum of 10 years.
- Candidates' business actions and personal behavior should demonstrate courageous thinking and actions as well as vision and innovation.
- Candidates can come from the industry as an owner, operator, or vendor.

### **CDRA Recycler of the Year**

The recycler of the year recognizes the individual or company that exemplifies excellence in the C&D industry. The award is meant to honor those Recycling Operations in the Construction and Demolition recycling industry who have made an extraordinary contribution to the industry through one or more of the following criteria:

- Advancing business operations that result in increase recycling percentages
- Developing novel methods of marketing and conducting business
- Innovative practices in employer-employee relations
- Ensuring safer operations
- Protecting the environment
- Developing industry standards

### **CDRA Member of the Year**

The CDRA Member of the Year is presented to the board member or committee member who has most served the association in the previous year. The Member of the Year is selected by the CDRA president based on extraordinary service to the mission of the organization and the C&D recycling industry through the following criteria during the previous 12-month period:

Candidates must exemplify leadership, defined as outstanding and enduring contributions to the success of the association and to lending quantifiable contributions to the association.

Candidates must either serve on a CDRA Committee or the CDRA Board of Directors.

Please direct any questions to [info@cdrecycling.org](mailto:info@cdrecycling.org); 866-758-4721.

# CDRA Member Spotlight

***Gord Johnson, President  
Empower Environmental Solutions***



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

We recover all of the components from asphalt shingles. We have a proprietary process for taking discarded asphalt shingles that are destined for landfills and extracting the liquid asphalt aggregate and fiber for usage in new hot mix asphalt, shingle manufacturing, and flat roof systems. We have steady-state production here in Vancouver at 10-20 TPD. Ramping up to increased production at 50-75 TPD by end of Q4 2022. Targeting 150-200 TPD for the Calgary facility – Our plants are designed to process 40,000 tons per year.



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

I was a partner in a company that developed a solution for treating production water from the oil & gas industry using MSW as a fuel source and one of the partners in that company was collecting shingles for RAS. he could see the market was limited for this product and together we started looking for solutions.

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

We know our system works as we operated a test facility. The biggest challenge we have faced is in scaling our technology from a small test facility to the pilot plant operating in Vancouver to a full commercial facility soon to be constructed in Calgary.

## **Where are the biggest opportunities?**

We can bring our solution to every major market across North America, thirteen million tons of asphalt shingles come off roofs every year and only a small percentage is actually being recycled. Working with other stakeholders we believe our technology will have a significant impact on this problem.

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

About 1.5 years.

## **What inspired you to join the CDRA?**

I have always subscribed to the newsletter and followed the industry, especially shingle recycling when the CDRA restarted shingle recycling coverage we saw this was a signal to get more involved and joined the CDRA shingle recycling committee. The people who want a solution and see the problem are CDRA members. and being part of this association is a great place to interact and learn.

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

It is very rewarding to be doing something that makes a difference and truly reduces waste.

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

When you develop new technology, you need financial resources & people who have the skills and knowledge to bring it to the market – funding the company has been one of the biggest hurdles to overcome. We initially financed the company via a combination of investors and bank loans. Some of our early investors helped us to become a public company in July of 2021. This brought us financial backing but more importantly the people with the right expertise for the company like our CEO Aidan Mills.

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

I spent many years providing security to the concert industry working with bands like U2 and the Rolling Stones.

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

I believe Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) will continue to grow and have a significant impact. I think we are going to see more products designed to be recycled or recovered as part of the circular economy. Policies to support this are going to support this trend of sustainable waste management

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

The best advice I could give is, to talk to people in the industry- create a network with industry professionals.

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

Be persistent if you believe in something.

*We are so excited to welcome **Gord Johnson** as a speaker at our **Shingle Recycling Forum** next month.*

# More Sponsors For Shingle Recycling Forum

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Two new sponsors have been announced for the 9th Shingle Recycling Forum on Oct. 5-6 in Chicago. ASR and TORXX have stepped up with large sponsorships to support the event that provides the best means to promote the recovery of asphalt roofing in the United States. Both companies will have booths at the Forum to showcase technologies for shingle recycling. This is all in addition to a top-notch program and tours of a shingle recycling facility and an end-user facility.

For more information about the 9th Shingle Recycling Forum, go to [www.cdrecycling.org/events/shingle-recycling-forum](http://www.cdrecycling.org/events/shingle-recycling-forum)



## Get Your ConExpo-Con/Agg Ticket through C&D World 2023 Registration

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Soon the registration will open for ConExpo-Con/Agg, the huge equipment exhibition on March 14-18 in Las Vegas, where the CDRA will be co-locating its Annual Meeting. As in past ConExpo-Con/Agg years, registrants to C&D World 2023, which will be held on March 15 at the Paris Resort, will automatically receive a badge to enter the big exhibition as well. This badge will be at a reduced price than buying directly from the show.

The CDRA has co-located its meeting with ConExpo-Con/Agg since 2002 because so many of its attendees want to purview all the equipment at the exhibition, and member vendors invest a lot into their booths at the event.

As you make your plans to attend ConExpo-Con/Agg, we hope you will plan to register through the CDRA. Registration will open soon; and remember that your C&D World registration not only gets you into the CDRA meeting but also gets you

entry into the big show, as well as the opportunity to reserve a room in the CDRA's block at the Paris at a rate less than that available through ConExpo-Con/Agg. Watch [www.cdrecycling.org](http://www.cdrecycling.org) for more information, or contact [info@cdrecycling.org](mailto:info@cdrecycling.org) if you have questions.

Ready to book your hotel room? [Click here.](#)

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

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- **End Market Committee** - Monday, October 17th at 3:00 p.m. Eastern
- **Gypsum Recycling Committee** – Wednesday, October 12th at 11:00 Eastern
- **Legislative Committee** – Thursday, October 13th at 2:00 p.m. Eastern
- **Marketing & Membership (M&M) Committee** – Thursday, October 13th at 3:00 p.m. Eastern
- **Risk Management Committee** – Tuesday, October 18th at 11:00 a.m. Eastern
- **Shingle Recycling Committee** – Tuesday, October 11th at 11:00 a.m.

Eastern. And for more programming on everything shingles, join us for the Shingle Recycling Forum in Chicago, October 6th and 6th.

More: <https://cdrecycling.org/events/shingle-recycling-forum/>

\*These dates and times are subject to change. Committee meetings are open to all members. To attend a meeting, please contact Michael Van Kerckhove at [vankerckove@cdrecycling.org](mailto:vankerckove@cdrecycling.org).

## Industry News

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### Our CDRA folks are on the move!

Commercial Bank names Joe Ursuy Executive Vice President, National Businesses for Energy, Renewables, and Waste - Waste Advantage Magazine

<https://wasteadvantagemag.com/comerica-bank-names-joe-ursuy-executive-vice-president-national-businesses-for-energy-renewables-and-waste/>

Eagle Crusher Names New President

<https://eaglecrusher.com/eagle-crusher-names-new-president/>

Welcome to Mount Group and Team Blue John J. Thomas

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mount-construction-inc\\_wearemount-activity-6973003103574839296-4Wbu?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_ios](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mount-construction-inc_wearemount-activity-6973003103574839296-4Wbu?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios)

Join us September 22, 2022, in Maryland! CDE is hosting an open house at Repurpose Aggregates, in Joppa, Maryland.

[Repurpose Aggregates to host open house of CDE facility - Construction & Demolition Recycling \(cdrecycler.com\)](#)

### Special Thanks to the CDRA's Sponsor Members

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