



New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling Inc.

Fall, 2015

Resource Recycling Conference Covers National Topics

By **DEBBIE JACKSON**
NYSAR³ Vice President

Editors Note: Debbie Jackson attended the recent Resource Recovery Conference in Indianapolis (Sept. 28-30) as the NYSAR³ ROC representative and submitted the following summary of her impressions. PowerPoint presentations of many sessions of the conference can be accessed here.

Monday, Sept. 28

Measurement Matters State Conversation

Basic discussion on collecting data using Re-Trac. The EPA was looking for ideas on new questions that should be included. It was interesting to hear how many states are using Re-Trac.

Recycling Organization Meeting - Good discussions.

Jerry Powell gave a presentation on the problems with setting up conferences, including a summary of what other conferences charge. That was very interesting. He also gave a presentation thanking all the sponsors, and each one had 5-10 minutes to talk about their company/organization.

NRC is looking to hear back from the ROC (state Recycling Organizations) as to what the NRC can provide. After a lengthy discussion, the ROC would like to go back to having a yearly retreat to discuss issues. They would like NRC to assist in funding travel for ROC members.

Also discussed was ROC affiliate memberships. Some states don't want to pay \$1,000, but would like one person to be a member. Those states are OK with not having all their members also be NRC members.

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Opening Keynote – Adam Minter

Adam presented his findings on markets in China and the global economy. Was interesting to hear. He has some good pictures of air pollution in China. He also wanted to make the point that recycling materials has the trickle-up effect on jobs, and that women are a big part of the recycling jobs market.

Separation Anxiety: Indianapolis and the Dirty MRF Debate

Best discussion ever! Secrets of closed door negotiations between the Mayor of Indianapolis and Covanta.

The paper market (Pratt Industries) is not a fan of dirty MRFs (contamination issues), the plastic markets (KW Plastics) is a fan (more materials). The way the contract was written is considered problematic.

Can Producer Responsibility Work for Packaging

The woman from Germany was a great speaker. Her summary of Germany's program was good. Other presenters included Upstream (a non-profit that promotes EPR) and Dart, but these speakers needed to provide more info about specifics and strategies.

Where MRFs and Markets Meet

Interesting presentations – getting more of the lower grades of aluminum out of the waste stream is not hard. Gottlieb is looking for these materials. Paper was discussed, same stories – need uncontaminated paper. Moore recycling gave a good summary of plastics.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

Updates from Recycling Partnership

Heard from a city and authority on how they got funding from Recycling Partnership and used that to get funding from other areas.

State Level Tools to Boost Local Programs

More discussion on Re-Trac. There was a good presentation on setting up and improving multi-family recycling.

Closed Loop Fund

Was interesting. Ron Gonen stated that probably no funding would be forthcoming for bottle bill states, based on fact there are more non-bottle bill states and they want to fund programs that are transferable.

Interception of Recycling & Sustainability

This was an interesting session; StopWaste presenter was good. Big point was more materials may not necessarily be better.

NRC Board of Directors Results

Melissa Young, who serves on the NYSAR³ Board, representing Chapter 2 (New York City) was elected to a three-year term on the National Recycling Coalition Board at the recent conference in Indianapolis. Read the [NRC release](#) on the election results.