



Bayshore Recycling Corporation

Changing the Way the World Thinks About Construction and Demolition Waste



Most people look at a container full of construction and demolition (C&D) waste and see a lot of trash. But to Valerie Montecalvo, the debris left behind when roads are reconstructed or buildings renovated or erected represent nothing less than a chance to conserve natural resources and reduce pollution. It is also a great opportunity to save money and promote the green economy.

Montecalvo is president of Bayshore Recycling Corp. (BRC), a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) licensed recycling operation and a Women Business Enterprise (WBE). She is also the co-owner of Montecalvo Material Recovery Facility, also fully permitted. "Construction recycling requires minimal effort, but the impact on our environment is monumental," she says.

Montecalvo and her husband, Frank, founded BRC in 1995 after nearly 20 years in the heavy highway construction business. "We saw huge amounts of debris generated by construction projects being dumped into quickly filling landfills," she recalls. "Plus, there was little recycled building material available for reuse, and available product was often poor quality."

Today, BRC and its family of diversified companies operate an array of facilities with a combined capacity to accept and process over 10,000 tons per day. The companies occupy a 52-acre site along the waterfront in the Keasbey section of Woodbridge, N.J. The site boasts transportation services via barge and Class I railroad. It is an "urban quarry" and material recovery facility (MRF) dedicated to removing everything that can currently be recycled from the C&D industry's waste stream. Manufactured products include landscaping mulch and engineered bio-fuels. Only items considered to be true waste are placed in landfills, substantially increasing their lifespan for future generations.

The recycled products are considerably less expensive than virgin materials. Cost reductions for customers' projects are in the millions of dollars, and transportation costs and the carbon footprint are significantly reduced. The benefits to the environment are too numerous to list but the message is clear: Recycling not only saves the planet, it also makes economic sense.

Clean, Renewable Energy

Beyond its value to the construction industry, recycling is also key to reducing the nation's dependence on fossil fuels. In 2009, \$5.7 million dollars was invested for a 679 kilowatt (9,365 panels) solar energy system to help power the operations. The facility's vision embraces by-product synergy to attract compatible green businesses.

"Biomass" is generated in significant quantities all across the United States. Montecalvo reminds us we only need to look

within our own homes to gain a stark reminder. Food waste, wood debris, tires, grass clippings, leaves, branches and tree parts are all examples of biomass.

Over time, materials recycled from the C&D industry waste stream will play an increasingly important role in the creation of clean, renewable energy. While some of these materials are already being used for alternative energy, their potential in this arena is far from being realized. Montecalvo believes that synthetic gas made from C&D waste is the energy of the future. She further notes that while gasification plants have been built all over the world, there are none yet in the U.S. As secretary-treasurer of the Construction



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Materials Recycling Association, she is working diligently to change this.

"Recycling is not a passing fad, and going green needs to be a way of life," Montecalvo says. "If we're going to move toward complete energy independence through renewable and sustainable practices, we need to focus on recycling and repurposing waste."

Reusable Construction Materials

"We accept and process a wide variety of C&D debris, bulky waste, contaminated soils, scrap metal and dredge materials. We utilize state-of-the-art equipment and technology to transform waste into reusable products for a broad range of applications." Montecalvo says.



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