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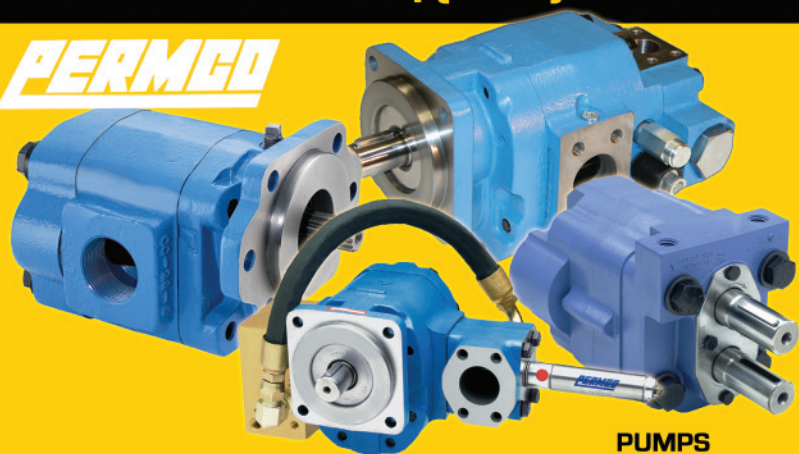
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Editor's Note



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we here at *Waste Advantage Magazine* ring in the new year (2012!), we continue to strive to bring you the latest and greatest news from the waste and recycling industries. New technologies, ideas, practices, products, etc.—you name it, we plan on covering it. In fact, last month I had the chance to go to the Waste Conversion Congress West Coast in San Jose, CA from December 6 – 7. Held over two days, the packed conference brought people together to discuss conversion technologies, partnerships, strategies, hands-on experiences and standards and regulations in place and what to look out for. John May, Managing Director for Stern Brothers and Mark Reidy, a Partner with Mintz Levin and General Counsel for the American Council on Renewable Energy, kicked off the first day with a lively discussion about budgeting and private investment. Then, the sessions moved on to funding, rules and regulations and permitting with a special focus on California and what they have done to set the bar high for the rest of the country. It was especially interesting to hear about their challenges and achievements (the host city, San Jose, has banned the use of plastic bags beginning this month). In addition, case studies and panel sessions that evaluated different waste-to-energy technologies by industry experts closed the day. Topping off day one of the conference was a great networking party that allowed attendees to meet and re-connect in a comfortable setting. Ideas were discussed, exchanged and considered while conversation and drinks flowed.

Day two of the conference focused closely on the specific waste-to-energy technologies, especially gasification and pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion and biofuels conversion, as well as meeting consultation challenges and educating communities about the waste conversion process. At the end of the day, an intimate and informal panel discussion about anaerobic digestion was held and the attendees were able to ask in-depth questions, see examples and discuss pros and cons. Ultimately, it was a interesting and successful conference—a real learning experience. I met some great people at the event and I hope to get the chance to attend another one like this in the future.

2012 will be a great year for *Waste Advantage Magazine*. We look forward to continue bringing you the best stories in the industry. Feel free to contact me anytime to give your feedback—we would love to hear from you throughout the year.

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