

Construction waste recycling planned

Contento's builds facility in city to process materials

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Contento's on Pendleton Street in Cortland is building the first construction and demolition debris recycling center of its kind in Central New York.

The center would create eight jobs within the next five years.

"Construction and demolition debris is not really a household term for many people," said Anthony Contento, vice president of Contento's. "What it is any debris made from construction or demolition projects."

Some common materials normally found in C&D debris are:

- Wood.
- Metal.
- Concrete.
- Asphalt.
- Gypsum wallboard.

"All these things and many others are all recyclable given the right market and if it's recovered properly," Contento said.

The company began considering the idea of the recycling center around six years ago. Located on the Contento property at 119 1/2 Pendleton St., the recycling center will be 75- by 80-square-feet and contain an open tipping floor and tractor-trailer well for removal of material, Contento said.

Work on the project is ongoing with digging of the foundation set to begin next week.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation issued a permit for the project in February, with a city building permit issued in April following support from the city Common Council and Cortland



Dan Lyon/multimedia intern

A truck dumps recyclable materials Tuesday at Contento's Recycling in Cortland. The company broke ground that day on a project to build the only construction and demolition debris recycling center in Central New York. The facility is being built at the site of an existing Contento's recycling facility on Pendleton Street in Cortland.

County Planning Board.

The project is expected to cost around \$734,000. Around \$145,000 was provided through a state grant from Empire State Economic Development Fund Program and \$100,000 through a community block grant program. The rest of the project is privately financed, Contento said.

The facility is permitted to process up to 250 tons of materials per day, Contento said. However, he doesn't think the material will surpass 100 tons per day. "I don't think it will come close," he said.

Starting out, the facility will be open for commercial use only, however, it may one

day be opened for residential use as well.

The facility will be open during Contento's normal hours, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Contento said. For now it's almost impossible for the company to estimate the number of trucks it'll service per day, which was the reason behind the permit for tonnage of material.

The company also does not expect a significant increase in noise, Contento said.

The project was outlined Tuesday morning at an event with Cortland Mayor Brian Tobin; County Legislature Chairman Charles Sudbrink (R-Cincinnatus,

Freetown, Taylor, Willet); Garry VanGorder, executive director of the Cortland County Business Development Corp., and state Sen. James Seward (R-Milford).

"The state policy today and it has been for a number of years is the three R's — reduce, recycle and reuse," Seward said Tuesday. "The Contento operation here is right where the state policy is."

Seward said the facility will be Central New York's only C&D debris recycling center.

"We feel fortunate to do that (C&D debris recycling) here in Cortland," Contento said.