



# CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CRRA Rewards Towns for Recycling with Over \$700,000; West Hartford, Sharon, Salisbury, Coventry Stand Out CRRA's Efforts Lead to Best Recycling Year Ever; Towns Save Additional \$5.3 Million**

HARTFORD, Conn. – For years, the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority has been reminding people that it pays to recycle. This month, 50 cities and towns are getting checks to prove it.

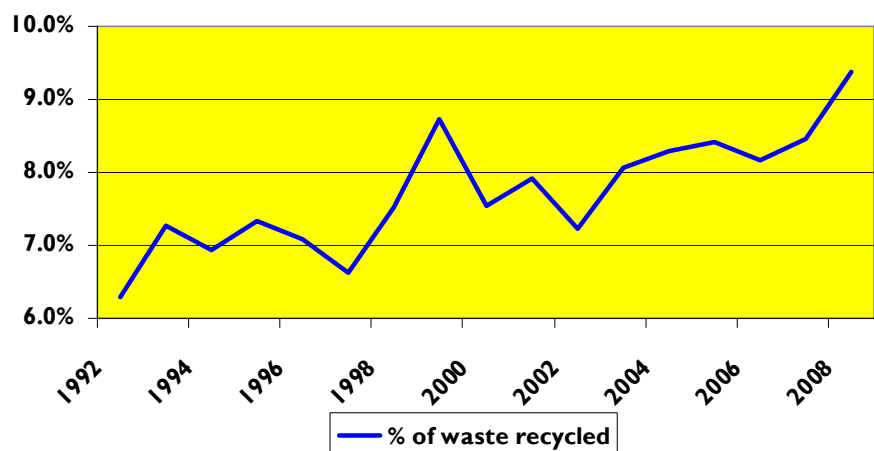
In fact, they'll be collecting a total of \$702,341.50 – \$10 for every qualifying ton of recyclables they delivered to CRRA during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008.

The \$10-a-ton rebate is just one of a number of initiatives introduced by CRRA to increase recycling:

- Most visibly, in 2007 CRRA introduced [Phillup D. Bag](#), a costumed character who was the focus of a marketing and public education campaign designed to get people to recycle their junk mail and mixed paper.
- Educational programs offered statewide through CRRA's [Trash Museum](#) in Hartford and [Garbage Museum](#) in Stratford reached record numbers of people.
- CRRA also expanded the menu of items people can recycle; Mid-Connecticut Project town residents can recycle boxboard, aerosol cans and jars, bottles and cans up to three gallons in size.

As a result of these efforts, residents of Mid-Connecticut Project towns recycled 79,434 tons of material in fiscal 2008. Add in 248 tons of electronics (not part of the rebate program) collected at CRRA recycling events, and those towns recycled 79,682 tons of waste, an all-time Project record. And when compared to trash deliveries of 770,842 tons during the same period (a reduction of 60,000 tons from the previous year), Project towns recycled 9.4 percent of their solid waste, another Project record.

**Mid-Connecticut Project Recycling Rate FY 1992-2008**



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“Reducing trash and increasing recycling are the best ways to manage the state’s solid waste problem, and we’re delighted that our initiatives are making that happen,” said Thomas D. Kirk, CRRA president.

Rebates went to 50 towns. To receive the money, towns only had to make sure that all recyclables under their control are delivered. That provision disqualified 14 towns.

Some noteworthy accomplishments:

- Of those towns that collected checks, the largest went to West Hartford, which received \$66,068.10.
- On a per-resident basis, the best recyclers were the towns of Sharon and Salisbury, which, through their shared transfer station recycled 1,120.47 tons, or 314.08 pounds per resident, and received \$11,204.70.
- Coventry, which recycled 1,373.39 tons and received \$13,733.90, had the best recycling rate in the Project, recycling 25.87 percent of waste delivered to CRRA.

Money for the rebates comes from revenues CRRA receives from the sale of recycled commodities. But the rebates aren’t the only financial incentive for towns to recycle. By not sending that waste to the Mid-Connecticut Project trash-to-energy plant, those towns saved more than \$5.3 million in disposal fees.

“We expect to be paying out a lot more money next year after we’ve made introduced single-stream recycling to the Mid-Connecticut Project towns,” Kirk added. Single-stream recycling, in which residents no longer have to separate paper and cardboard from bottles and cans, has led to big increases in recycling rates all around the country. Earlier this year, CRRA began retrofitting its Hartford recycling facility to accept single-stream deliveries, and the retrofit is expected to be complete this fall.

Recycling figures do not include electronics (recycled through CRRA, manufacturers or retailers) and do not include other forms of recycling, such as deposit container redemption, composting of grass clippings, yard waste and food, and recycling of other commodities including scrap metal, waste oil, lead-acid batteries. After taking all these other materials into consideration, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection estimates that Connecticut recycles about 30 percent of its solid waste.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority is a quasi-public agency whose mission is to work for – and in – the best interests of the municipalities of the state of Connecticut. CRRA’s new board of directors and new management team develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. CRRA’s four solid waste projects serve 118 Connecticut cities and towns. CRRA also runs environmental and recycling educational programs through the Trash Museum in Hartford and Garbage Museum in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit <http://www.crra.org>. Computer users can also discuss CRRA at its blog, <http://crra-blog.blogspot.com>.

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**(EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS: A complete list of towns and the rebates they received is attached.)**

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Here is a list of CRRA Mid-Connecticut Project cities and towns<sup>4</sup>, the tons of recyclables (not including electronics) they and their residents delivered to CRRA between July 1, 2007, and June 30, 2008, and the rebates they received for those recyclables:

<b>TOWN</b>	<b>TONS</b>	<b>REBATE</b>	<b>TOWN</b>	<b>TONS</b>	<b>REBATE</b>
Avon	1,762.370	\$17,623.70	Manchester	3,757.210	\$37,572.10
Beacon Falls	306.150	\$ 3,061.50	Middlebury	858.750	\$ 8,587.50
Bloomfield	1,503.410	\$15,034.10	Naugatuck	1,548.810	\$15,488.10
Bolton	534.290	\$ 5,342.90	North Branford	879.500	\$ 8,795.00
Colebrook	164.370	\$ 1,643.70	North Canaan	231.180	\$ 2,311.80
Coventry	1,373.390	\$13,733.90	Newington	2,118.770	\$21,187.70
Cromwell	696.860	\$ 6,968.60	Norfolk	178.260	\$ 1,782.60
East Granby	528.000	\$ 5,280.00	Rocky Hill	1,485.130	\$14,851.30
East Hampton	830.620	\$ 8,306.20	<sup>2</sup> RRDD#1	1,882.650	\$18,826.50
East Hartford	2,150.460	\$21,504.60	<sup>3</sup> Sharon/Salisbury	1,120.470	\$11,204.70
Ellington	1,209.540	\$12,095.40	Simsbury	2,929.090	\$29,290.90
Enfield	2,800.550	\$28,005.50	Southbury	1,786.790	\$17,867.90
Essex	635.440	\$ 6,354.40	Suffield	1,227.640	\$12,276.40
East Windsor	774.890	\$ 7,748.90	South Windsor	2,502.400	\$25,024.00
Farmington	2,024.800	\$20,248.00	Thomaston	432.030	\$ 4,320.30
Glastonbury	3,300.050	\$33,000.50	Torrington	2,019.190	\$20,191.90
Goshen	296.260	\$ 2,962.60	Vernon	2,042.440	\$20,424.40
Granby	1,153.460	\$11,534.60	Waterbury	3,213.690	\$32,136.90
Guilford	1,303.740	\$13,037.40	Watertown	1,415.230	\$14,152.30
Haddam	496.910	\$ 4,969.10	Westbrook	292.080	\$ 2,920.80
Hartford	2,481.070	\$24,810.70	Wethersfield	2,315.420	\$23,154.20
Harwinton	459.680	\$ 4,596.80	West Hartford	6,606.810	\$66,068.10
Hebron	928.060	\$ 9,280.60	Windsor Locks	1,006.250	\$10,062.50
Litchfield	669.990	\$ 6,699.90	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b><sup>1</sup>79,433.866</b>	<b>\$702,341.50</b>

1 – Bethlehem, Canton, Chester, Clinton, Cornwall, Deep River, Killingworth, Marlborough, Old Saybrook, Oxford, Roxbury and Woodbury allow collection of deposit containers on town property but do not deliver them to CRRA, making them ineligible for the rebates. Madison diverted some recyclable materials away from CRRA, making it ineligible for the rebate. Combined, these towns delivered a total of 8,847.106 tons of recyclables in FY 2008.

2 – Regional Refuse Disposal District #1 is comprised of Winchester, New Hartford and Barkhamsted.

3 – Sharon and Salisbury share a transfer station and their recyclables are delivered to CRRA together.

4 – Canaan, Durham, Lyme, Middlefield, Old Lyme, Portland and Tolland are part of the Mid-Connecticut Project but do not deliver any town-controlled recyclables to CRRA.



The Town of Coventry was recognized by the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority for having the highest recycling rate in the 70-town Mid-Connecticut Project. CRRA President Thomas D. Kirk presents a rebate check for \$13,733.90 to Coventry officials (from left) Timothy M. Webb, director of public works; Elizabeth A. Woolf, chair, Town Council; and John A. Elsesser, town manager. Town officials credit their pay-as-you-throw system, in which residents pay for each bag of trash picked up at curbside, for the town's recycling success.

**(EDITORS: A 300-dpi .jpg of this photograph is available by contacting Paul Nonnenmacher at [pnonnenmacher@crra.org](mailto:pnonnenmacher@crra.org) or (860) 757-7771.)**