

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2005

Further Information:

Paul Nonnenmacher, (860) 757-7771

E-mail: <u>pnonnenmacher@crra.org</u>
Tom Gaffey, (860) 757-7735

E-mail: tgaffey@crra.org

CRRA Sets Wallingford Electronics Recycling Oct. 29 Collection Also for Residents of Meriden, Cheshire, Hamden, North Haven

WALLINGFORD, Conn. – Electronics continue to become more powerful and less expensive, so more and more people are replacing their computers, VCRs, cellular telephones, printers, answering machines and other electronic gear. But what to do with the old units?

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) will provide residents of Wallingford, Meriden, Cheshire, Hamden and North Haven the answer with another of its popular consumer electronics recycling collections on Oct. 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 50 Barnes Park Road North, site of CiDRA and Ultra Electronics DNE Technologies.

"Thousands of Connecticut residents have turned to CRRA to provide safe, free disposal of their residential electronics under this program," said Thomas P. Gaffey, CRRA manager of recycling and enforcement. "Since we began these recycling programs in 1999, we have kept more than two million pounds of electronics from being buried in landfills."

The pileup of used electronics is becoming a nationwide concern:

- Americans will scrap about 400 million units of consumer electronics each year in this decade, according to the International Association of Electronics Recyclers.
- Between 2000 and 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that over 500 million personal computers will become obsolete.
- U.S. EPA estimates that up to 130 million cell phones will be discarded in 2005.

"By far, this has been CRRA's most popular program," Gaffey said. "We have had more requests about this topic than any other on our Web site. Connecticut's residents are extremely environmentally aware, and almost instinctively have held onto their old computers, televisions, and other electronic equipment, not wanting to throw them in the trash."

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 also runs environmental and recycling educational programs through its Visitors Center and Trash Museum in Hartford and Children's Garbage Museum in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit http://www.crra.org.