

CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2005

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Recycling to Expand in 70 CRRA Towns With Development of New Processing Center New Mid-Connecticut Project Facility to Accept More Types of Commodities

HARTFORD, Conn. – Recycling has always been a good idea. For 70 Connecticut cities and towns, it's about to get a whole lot better.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority and FCR, Inc., a subsidiary of Casella Waste Systems, Inc., today unveiled plans to build a new regional recycling center (RRC).

**Editors: A list of
Mid-Connecticut
Project towns is
attached.**

CRRA also announced that starting in October 2005, the 70 cities and towns served by its Mid-Connecticut Project will be able to recycle a wider array of commodities. Items which will be added to the recyclables list in October include junk mail, catalogues, magazines, office paper and other mixed paper. The project already accepts No. 1 and No. 2 plastics, aluminum and steel cans, glass containers, corrugated cardboard and newspaper.

When the new center is operational, residents of Mid-Connecticut Project towns will also be able to recycle boxboard (cereal boxes, shoe boxes, dry goods boxes with inner packaging removed), aerosol cans and oversized plastic and metal containers such as No. 10 steel cans.

Under terms of the agreement between CRRA and FCR, FCR will build the new RRC on Murphy Road in Hartford, investing \$6 million in capital improvements and state-of-the-art processing equipment. Sales of commodities delivered to the new RRC are expected to net CRRA about \$2.7 million per year. Historically, the net cost of recycling has been subsidized by the trash disposal fee, which currently is \$70 per ton.

The new setup will help CRRA remain the only agency of its kind in the nation that does not charge a separate fee for recycling.

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“This is good news for the people of our towns in so many ways,” said Thomas D. Kirk, CRRA president. “First, more recycling means less trash. Second, FCR has agreed to finance construction of the new facility, so there will be no cost to the ratepayers. Third, the revenue from our new recycling program will help contain the cost of disposing of trash.”

“We are thrilled that CRRA has chosen us as their partner for the next 10 years,” said James W. Bohlig, president and chief operating officer of Casella Waste Systems. “Our whole company is excited about the prospects of installing one of the most technologically advanced materials recycling facilities (MRFs) in the United States right here in Hartford. We are comfortable that our experience in operating state-of-the-art MRFs, managing complex retrofits, coupled with our proven record of running safe and clean MRF operations should foster a sustainable business model that will provide the residents of Connecticut with positive, predictable revenue streams, well into the future.”

Through this agreement, CRRA is able to take advantage of rising prices for recycled commodities in world markets. China, its economy expanding rapidly, is consuming large quantities of steel, aluminum and fiber, and that demand is fueling the growth in prices for recyclables.

The new facility will replace two existing processing centers, one for containers and one for paper, and will be able to process 160,000 tons of recyclables per year. Currently, Mid-Connecticut Project towns deliver about 78,000 tons of recyclables per year.

At the RRC, recycling trucks tip loads of material from curbside collection and drop-off centers. Commodities are separated mechanically and by hand, then baled or bundled and sent to processors who turn the commodities into new materials.

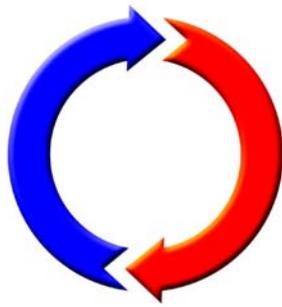
“By expanding its collection of mixed paper, CRRA will make a major contribution to the achievement of our state’s recycling goals, to a cleaner environment and to more cost-effective methods for managing of our waste,” said C. J. May, president of the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition. “We at the CRC congratulate you on your new venture and thank you for helping Connecticut make its future cleaner and brighter.”

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The new facility will be built on the site of the current container recycling facility at 211 Murphy Road, adjacent to the CRRA Trash Museum. Current plans call for the project to be completed in 2007. Design work and equipment procurement, as well as a modification to CRRA's operating permit granted by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, must be completed before construction can begin. CRRA expects that recyclable containers will have to be diverted to other processing facilities for about three months during construction of the new facility.

Under terms of the agreement with FCR, CRRA will own the site on which the building is located and will have the option to purchase the facility from FCR after 10 years. The facility and its processing systems are being designed for a minimum life span of 15 years.

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>.



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BACKGROUND

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CRRA Serves 70 Mid-Connecticut Project Towns

CRRA's Mid-Connecticut Project serves these 70 communities:

Avon	East Hartford	Manchester	Simsbury
Barkhamsted	East Windsor	Marlborough	South Windsor
Beacon Falls	Ellington	Middlebury	Southbury
Bethlehem	Enfield	Middlefield	Suffield
Bloomfield	Essex	Naugatuck	Thomaston
Bolton	Farmington	New Hartford	Tolland
Canaan	Glastonbury	Newington	Torrington
Canton	Goshen	Norfolk	Vernon
Chester	Granby	North Branford	Waterbury
Clinton	Guilford	North Canaan	Watertown
Colebrook	Haddam	Old Lyme	West Hartford
Cornwall	Hartford	Old Saybrook	Westbrook
Coventry	Harwinton	Oxford	Wethersfield
Cromwell	Hebron	Portland	Winchester
Deep River	Killingworth	Rocky Hill	Windsor Locks
Durham	Litchfield	Roxbury	Woodbury
East Granby	Lyme	Salisbury	
East Hampton	Madison	Sharon	

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