



CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

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Next Generation of Recycling Headed to Connecticut; CRRA to Convert Hartford RRF to Single-Stream

HARTFORD, Conn. – The next generation of recycling is coming to Connecticut.

Today the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority Board of Directors approved spending \$3 million to retrofit its Hartford regional recycling facility to accept single-stream recycling deliveries, meaning single-stream recycling being available to all 70 cities and towns served by CRRA's [Mid-Connecticut Project](#).

Unlike the familiar curbside recycling system, in which paper and cardboard are separated from bottles, cans and other containers, single-stream recycling means that a resident can put all his recyclables into the same barrel, making it easier for people to recycle. And because most single-stream collection systems use 64-gallon barrels, rather than the 14-gallon bins currently in use, people will be able to recycle more material.

“In many other cities, single-stream has dramatically improved recycling rates. We believe this is the future of recycling,” said Thomas D. Kirk, CRRA president. “The state has set some aggressive goals for recycling, and single-stream is the kind of bold step we need to take to reach those goals.”

While many Connecticut communities pay to dispose of their recyclables, CRRA has never charged a disposal fee for recycling thanks to revenues from selling recyclables to companies who turn them into new products. Further, this year CRRA will rebate Mid-Connecticut Project towns \$10 for every ton of recyclables they deliver.

Converting to single-stream is expected to have a significant positive impact on recycling and trash disposal finances for Mid-Connecticut Project cities and towns:

- If recycling deliveries increase by 50 percent – and in some U.S. communities tonnages have doubled or even tripled after the introduction of single-stream – CRRA expects to receive an additional \$5.375 million in commodity sales revenues over the next 10 years, meaning the retrofit will more than pay for itself.
- Because more recycling means less trash, towns will be paying to dispose of so much less trash that they will save \$26 million over that same 10-year period.

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“For many months, towns and private haulers have been urging us to go single-stream,” said Thomas P. Gaffey, CRRA’s head of recycling. “The towns like it because more recycling means they get a bigger rebate check and a smaller trash bill. And haulers – both the private companies and municipal fleets – like it because they can automate their collections, driving down their costs and fuel consumption and making their routes more efficient.”

Currently, recyclables delivered to CRRA’s Hartford facility are separated, with newspaper, junk mail, cardboard and other paper products brought to one portion of the facility and bottles, cans, jars and other containers brought to another portion. The retrofit will install new sorting equipment to automatically separate paper and cardboard from containers.

CRRA expects to complete the retrofit and be able to accept single-stream deliveries by Dec. 31.

Towns and haulers who do not want to switch to single-stream collection will still be able to make dual-stream deliveries to the facility after the conversion.

CRRA is already working with the City of Hartford on a pilot project that will bring single-stream recycling to almost 5,000 homes in the capitol city. That pilot project is funded by the National Recycling Partnership, which includes the National Recycling Coalition; FCR, Inc., which operates CRRA’s recycling facilities in Hartford and Stratford; RecycleBank, which provides discount coupons to participants; the Food Marketing Institute; the American Beverage Association; the Association of Food, Beverage and Consumer Products Companies; and the International Bottled Water Association. That project will begin in mid-May.

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>.