

CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Next Generation of Recycling Arrives in Connecticut; CRRA's Single-Stream Facility Up and Running Smoothly Cities, Towns and Haulers Rushing to Convert to Single-Stream

HARTFORD, Conn. – The next generation of recycling has arrived in Connecticut.

Single-stream recycling – in which paper and cardboard can be mixed with bottles and cans in a single recycling bin – is now available to residents of the 63 cities and towns that recycle with the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority's [Mid-Connecticut Project](#) following completion of a \$3 million upgrade of CRRA's Hartford recycling processing center.

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 wheeled barrels, rather than the 14-gallon bins currently in use, people will be able to recycle more material.

“In many other cities and towns, single-stream has dramatically improved recycling rates. We believe this is the future of recycling,” said Thomas D. Kirk, CRRA president. “The state has 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, CRRA rebates qualifying Mid-Connecticut Project towns \$10 for every ton of recyclables they deliver.

(Editors and news directors: a list of Mid-Connecticut Project municipalities is attached.)

Already, the facility is taking single-stream deliveries from 59 cities and towns throughout the Mid-Connecticut Project area. Participation varies by town and by hauler; residents with questions should call their trash hauler or local public works department for more information.

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CRRA now offers single-stream recycling

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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 continue to 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.

“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.”

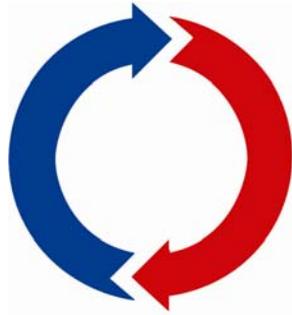
Previously, all recyclables delivered to CRRA’s Hartford facility had to be separated, with newspaper, junk mail, cardboard and other paper products brought to one portion of the facility and bottles, cans, jars and other containers brought to another portion.

The retrofit involved the installation new sorting equipment to automatically separate paper and cardboard from containers.

Towns and haulers who do not want to switch to single-stream collection can continue to make dual-stream deliveries to the facility, with paper and cardboard unloaded on one area of the tip floor and bottles and cans unloaded on another.

CRRA has been working with the City of Hartford on a pilot project that has brought single-stream recycling to almost 4,500 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 one-year project began 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>.



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BACKGROUNDER

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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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