



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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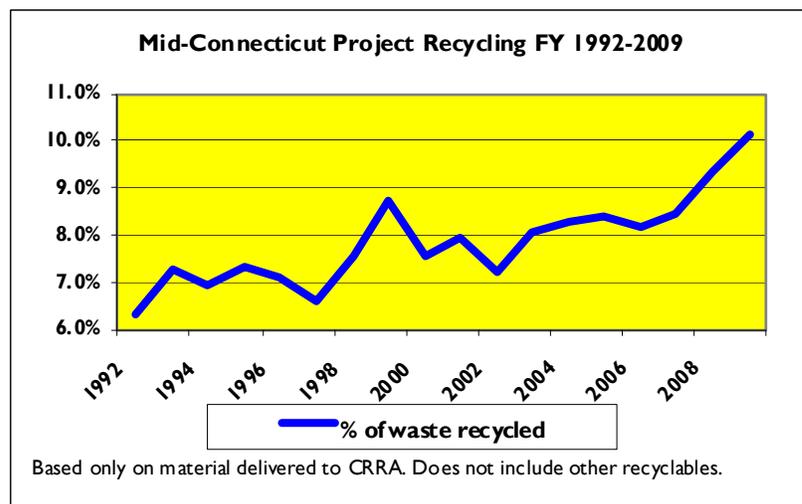
**CRRA Rewards Towns for Recycling with Over \$400,000;
Portland Shows Greatest Increase in Recycling Rate
CRRA's Efforts Lead to Best Recycling Year Ever; Towns Save Additional \$5.3 Million**

HARTFORD, Conn. – For years, the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority has been reminding people that it pays to recycle. For the second year in a row, 63 cities and towns have received checks to prove it.

In fact, they're collecting a total of more than \$400,000 – \$5 for every qualifying ton of recyclables they delivered to CRRA during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009.

The \$5-a-ton rebate is just one of a number of CRRA initiatives increase recycling:

- In 2008, CRRA introduced to Connecticut single-stream recycling, the next generation of recycling.
- In 2009, CRRA supported the introduction of single-stream recycling with a public awareness campaign that featured radio advertisements, printed materials and press interviews.
- CRRA's education programs, offered through the Trash Museum in Hartford and the Garbage Museum in Stratford, have drawn record numbers of participants for three straight years.



As a result of these efforts, residents of Mid-Connecticut Project towns recycled 80,953 tons of material in fiscal 2009. Add in 301 tons of electronics (not part of the rebate program) collected at CRRA recycling events, and those towns recycled 81,254 tons of waste, an all-time Project record.

“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.

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Some noteworthy accomplishments:

- West Hartford led the Project by recycling 6,091.98 tons, good for a rebate of \$30,459.90.
- On a per-resident basis, the best recyclers were the towns of Sharon and Salisbury, which, through their shared transfer station recycled 1,024.72 tons, or 287.24 pounds per resident. Those towns received \$5,123.60.
- Portland recycled 823.69 tons, an increase of more than 133 percent over its FY 2008 total, while increasing its recycling rate (the ratio of recyclables to garbage delivered to the Mid-Connecticut Project) by more than 122 percent. Portland's rebate was \$4,118.45.

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.

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 board of directors and 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 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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The Town of Portland was recognized by the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority for the highest increase in recycling in the 70-town Mid-Connecticut Project. Showing off a rebate check for \$4,118.45 are (seated, from left) Selectmen Kathleen G. Richards and Mark J. Finkelstein and First Selectman Susan S. Bransfield and (standing, from left) Selectmen Sharon Peters, Brian M. Flood and Carl A. Chudzik and CRRA Director of Public Affairs Paul Nonnenmacher. (EDITORS: A 300-dpi .jpg of this photograph is available by contacting Paul Nonnenmacher at pnonnenmacher@crra.org or (860) 757-7771.)