



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CRRA Mid-Conn. Project to Recycle All Plastic Containers
Upon Completion of Upgrade to Processing Facility
CRRA Board Approves \$65,000 for New Equipment;
Installation, Acceptance of Plastics 1 through 7 Expected in Early 2010**

HARTFORD, Conn. – Recyclers in the 64 cities and towns will soon be able to place all their plastic food and beverage containers – not just those numbered 1 and 2 – in their recycling bins.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority will install additional sorting equipment at its Mid-Connecticut Project recycling processing center to accept food and beverage containers made from all seven types of plastic. The CRRA Board of Directors has voted to spend \$65,000 for the new equipment, which is expected to be operational early in 2010.

Editors and news directors: a list of affected cities and towns is attached.

Until the new equipment is installed and working properly, residents of Mid-Connecticut Project towns will still be limited to recycling containers made of plastics numbered 1 and 2.

Once the upgrade is complete, plastic film, such as food wrap, sandwich bags, dry-cleaning bags, trash bags and shopping bags, will still be prohibited from the curbside recycling bin.

Recycling of these additional materials became possible when markets for plastics numbered 3 through 7 developed to the point where reliable long-term customers for these materials were available. Recycling depends on the ability to sell recycled materials to processors who manufacture them into new products. Those revenues enable CRRA to operate the recycling program without charging towns a disposal fee for their recyclables.

“For years, people have wanted us to take all their plastic containers, not just the 1s and 2s,” said Thomas D. Kirk, CRRA president. “We’re excited to grant their wishes.”

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The upgrade marks CRRA’s fourth major expansion of its Mid-Connecticut Project recycling program since 2005. The others:

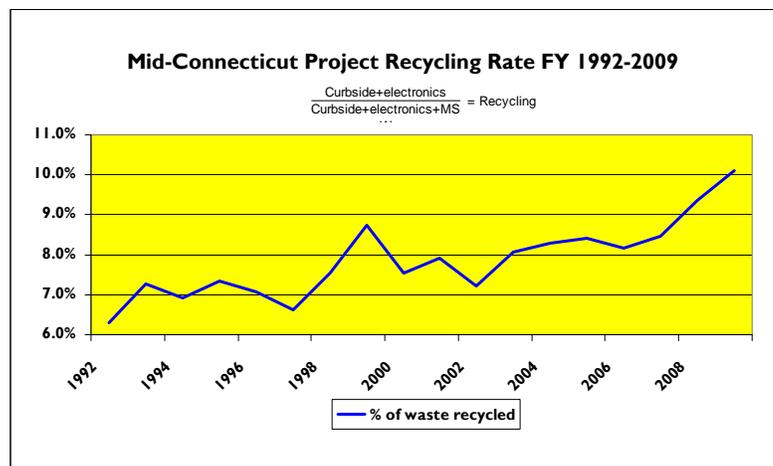
- 2005 – Junk mail, magazines, catalogs, home computer paper and other types of mixed paper are added to the recycling menu.
- 2007 – Oversized glass, metal and plastic containers, boxboard or chipboard (such as cereal boxes, shoe boxes and shirt cardboard) and aerosol cans are added to the recycling menu.
- 2008 – CRRA introduces single-stream recycling to Connecticut with the retrofit of the Hartford recycling processing center.

Expansion of the plastics menu is just one of CRRA’s efforts to increase recycling.

- Since CRRA launched its residential electronics recycling collections 1999, almost 6 million pounds of old, broken and unwanted televisions, VCRs, computers, cell phones and other devices have been kept out of the waste stream.
- In 2008 and 2009, CRRA rebated to Mid-Connecticut Project towns a total of more than \$1.2 million for recyclables delivered to the Project.
- Since 2007, CRRA has run an advertising/public awareness campaign focused on radio and on-line media.
- CRRA’s education centers, the Trash Museum in Hartford and the Garbage Museum in Stratford, continue to reach more and more people each year, topping 57,000 in 2008.

As a result, the Mid-Connecticut Project’s recycling rate has steadily increased since 2007.

The state Solid Waste Management Plan, which CRRA is charged with implementing, calls for increasing the state’s recycling rate from its current level of about 30 percent to 58 percent by the year 2024. The state’s recycling rate includes items not managed by CRRA, 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.



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 develops and implements environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. CRRA serves 110 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>.



BACKGROUND

Further Information:

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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	

* -- Canaan, Durham, Lyme, Middlefield, Old Lyme and Tolland deliver trash but not recyclables to the Mid-Connecticut Project.

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