

What Makes CRRA Connecticut's Recycling Leader?

CRRA has been providing cities and towns with recycling services since 1990.

Since then, CRRA has recycled more than 2.5 million tons of cans, bottles, paper, cardboard and other recyclables. Recycling these materials rather than disposing of them as trash

- prevented the creation of more than 1.5 million tons of greenhouse gases – we would have required more than 90 million tree seedlings to grow for 10 years to remove the same amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; and
- saved more than 23 million million BTUs of energy – equivalent of 186 million gallons of gasoline or enough energy to power more than 225,000 average homes for a full year

(Information from [Northeast Recycling Council's Environmental Benefits Calculator](#))

CRRA brought electronics recycling to Connecticut in 1999.

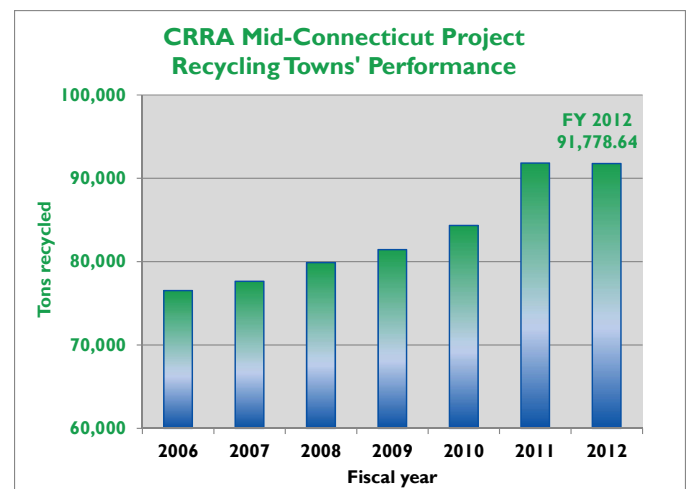
Since then, more than 54,000 families have recycled more than 6.5 million pounds of electronics, keeping lead, mercury, zinc, cadmium and other substances from polluting our environment.

CRRA has steadily expanded its menu of recyclables:

- 2006 – [added junk mail, magazines, computer paper, catalogs and other types of mixed paper](#)
- 2007 – [added boxboard, aerosol cans and oversized glass, plastic and metal jars and cans](#)
- 2010 – [added all plastic food and beverage containers – numbers 1 through 7](#)

CRRA introduced single-stream recycling to the state, starting with 64 towns, in 2008 and added more in 2011.

As a result of these advancements, [Mid-Connecticut Project towns have increased their recycling tonnage by more than 18 percent](#) (see chart above right) while the [state's overall recycling rate has been stagnant for more than a decade](#).



CRRA began teaching people to recycle in 1993 and its innovative education programs are still effective today.

Since the CRRA Trash Museum opened in Hartford almost 20 years ago, more than 780,000 people have participated in its programs. In June 2012, [CRRA received a CQIA Innovation Prize from the Connecticut Quality Improvement Partnership](#) (see plaque at left) for its unique combination of processing technology, public education and recycling success.

That's leadership. That's why CRRA is Connecticut's Recycling Leader.