



# CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 23, 2008**

**Media inquiries:**

**Paul Nonnenmacher – (860) 757-7771**

**or [pnonnenmacher@crra.org](mailto:pnonnenmacher@crra.org)**

## **Trash Fees to Drop for 70 Municipalities** **CRRA to Use Surplus to Reduce Mid-Connecticut Project Fee 13.9 Percent**

HARTFORD, Conn. – Trash disposal fees will soon drop for 70 cities and towns.

The Connecticut Resources Recovery Board of Directors this afternoon voted to reduce the disposal fee for [cities and towns in its Mid-Connecticut Project](#) to \$62 per ton from its current \$72 per ton effective Jan. 1, 2009, a decrease of 13.9 percent. The decrease will be effective through the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2009.

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

“Our commitment to finding efficiencies and increasing our electric revenue has resulted in reducing our net cost of operation, which produced a surplus in the last fiscal year,” said Michael A. Pace, CRRA chairman.

[According to CRRA’s annual audit](#), the Mid-Connecticut Project generated a surplus of about \$13 million in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. Primary reasons for the surplus:

- Sales of recycled metals generated \$1.9 million more than was budgeted. In processing trash into fuel (which is burned to generate electricity), the [Mid-Connecticut Project trash-to-energy facility](#) separates steel from the trash. The steel is sold to a metal recycler.
- A new power sales contract generated \$2 million more than was budgeted. The new contract, with Connecticut Light & Power, was signed after the fiscal year’s budget was adopted.
- \$1.7 million in savings from waste diversions. When the Project has more trash than it can process, excess must be shipped to other facilities at costs that can reach \$90 per ton. But the Project took in about 778,000 tons of trash in the year ended June 30, much less than the 865,000 tons budgeted.
- A decrease in excess revenue share of \$2.1 million due to unplanned power generating facility outages.
- \$2.9 million savings in waste processing facility operating costs due to lower amounts of waste processed.
- \$1.9 million savings in administrative costs due to lower-than-budgeted legal fees, salaries and overhead resulting from aggressive cost cutting.

—more—

Of that surplus, approximately \$4 million was used to decrease disposal fees in the current fiscal year. The Project's bond indenture covenants required that \$6 million be reserved to satisfy a debt service coverage ratio. The board also restored \$1 million to a facilities modification reserve that had been cut earlier this year and set aside \$2 million to cover for an anticipated decrease in revenue caused by lower-than-expected deliveries of trash.

The \$10-per-ton savings will go to all Mid-Connecticut Project customers – those whose towns have municipal trash pickup and private haulers paid to collect trash from homes and businesses. Residents with subscription trash service should contact their haulers to ask whether these savings will be passed on to them.

One hauler, Mike Paine, owner of Paine's Recycling & Rubbish Removal in East Granby, said, "It was very good of CRRA to share from their surplus monies that would reduce the tip fee. The people who paid into that surplus were the municipalities and private haulers, who can now share their savings with their customers."

The savings will start Jan. 1 due to a clause in the towns' contracts with CRRA requiring 60-day notice before any change in disposal fees. Mid-Connecticut Project disposal fees for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2009, will be set when the board adopts a budget in February.

Neither the Mid-Connecticut Project surplus nor the disposal fee reduction affects the Bridgeport, Wallingford or Southeast Projects. The finances of each of CRRA's four solid waste projects are closed systems, separate and distinct from each other.

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>.



# CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY

## **BACKGROUND**

**Further Information:**

**Paul Nonnenmacher, (860) 757-7771**

**E-mail: [pnonnenmacher@crra.org](mailto:pnonnenmacher@crra.org)**

## **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	

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 also runs environmental and recycling educational programs through its Visitors Center in Hartford and Garbage Museum in Stratford. For more information about CRRA and its activities, visit <http://www.crca.org>.