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**CRRA Awarded \$86K Grant for Targeted Recycling Education in Bridgeport, East Hartford, Easton, Waterbury, Westport Trash Museum, Garbage Museum Educators to Develop Classroom Resources, Teacher Workshops, Educational Software with Institute of Museum & Library Science Grant**

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, long recognized as a leader in recycling education, has received an \$86,940 Museums for America grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS). The money will fund targeted recycling education programs in five selected communities and the development of educational resources such as software, instructional kits and teacher workshops.

The grant-funded program, targeting Grade 3 students in Bridgeport, East Hartford, Easton, Waterbury and Westport over two years, is designed to increase recycling rates in those communities. The students will get information and incentives to recycle from the Trash Museum in Hartford or the Garbage Museum in Stratford. Families and teachers in participating schools will be surveyed immediately after the educational programs, and again several months later, to gauge behavioral changes.

<b>FY 2007-2009 Averages</b>			
Town	MSW (tons)	Recycled (tons)	Recycling rate
Bridgeport	63,402	3,058	4.60%
East Hartford	31,394	2,098	6.26%
Easton	3,000	868	22.44%
Waterbury	78,597	3,213	3.93%
Westport	19,114	1,459	7.09%
Based only on material delivered to CRRA. Does not include other recyclables.			

“We’ve always known from experience that once we get children excited about recycling, they go home and get their families to recycle,” said CRRA Education Supervisor Sotoria Montanari, who will direct the program. “Thanks to the IMLS grant, we’ll be able to measure that impact in a diverse variety of communities.”

In year one of the program, Grade 3 classes from schools in the targeted communities will learn about curbside recycling either by visiting the Trash Museum or the Garbage Museum, or from

Museum educators who visit the schools to conduct educational programs, all at no charge.

In year two, Museum educators will introduce recycling education software and classroom education kits and host continuing education workshops for teachers.

Grade 3 was selected because recycling and resource conservation are included in the state science education curriculum standards for that grade level. CRRA's educational programs are aligned with state and federal science education standards.

"Through the programs and materials funded by the IMLS grant, students will learn how their everyday choices can have positive impacts on our environment," Montanari said.

The communities selected comprise a broad demographic cross-section of Connecticut. Their current recycling rates, as measured by comparing tons of recyclables with tons of trash delivered to CRRA facilities, ranges widely as well, from Waterbury's 3.9 percent to Easton's 22.4 percent.

Since 1992, the Garbage Museum and the Trash Museum have provided environmental education programs to more than 310,000 people. In 2008, participation in those programs topped 57,000, an all-time high. In 2002 the Museums earned the prestigious Beth Brown Boettner Award for Outstanding Public Education by the National Recycling Coalition.

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 and food waste; and recycling of other commodities including scrap metal, waste oil and 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 Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov).

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 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>.