

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT

Nancy Drumheller, Public Information
Coordinator

**DATE**

Thursday, June 11, 2008

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority
2100 West Laburnum Avenue, Suite 105, Richmond, Virginia 23227
(804) 359-8413 ♦ fax (804) 359-8421 ♦ www.cvwma.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regional Recycling Rate Reaches 50% for 2007

Central Virginia citizens and businesses recycled 50.3 percent of waste generated in the region in 2007, according to a report by the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority released today.

CVWMA, a cooperative government agency that coordinates recycling and other waste management programs with thirteen area local governments, compiles the annual regional recycling rate and submits the information to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. State law requires that localities recycle at least 25 percent of their waste each year.

The majority of the recycled material was paper, including newspaper, office paper and cardboard. Nearly 189,553 tons of paper-related material was recycled in 2007. Yard waste and wood waste which are chipped into compost or mulch comprise another 140,185 tons recycled.

Metals, textiles, glass and plastic are also measured for the report. Auto bodies, appliances, and assorted other metal items made up the nearly 26,808 tons of metal that were recycled in 2007. Clothing donations to organizations such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army contribute to the textiles total of about 9,913 tons.

The trash generation figure is an estimate based on national research. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that citizens create an average of 4.5 pounds of trash per person per day.

The recycling rate is computed by dividing the amount recycled in the region by the amount of trash generated. The amount recycled is gathered from local and national businesses with programs in the area. The total amount recycled for the region in 2007 was 544,756 tons.

CVWMA recycling programs include curbside collection and drop-off centers; yard waste, electronics, appliance, batteries, HHW and tires to name a few. Curbside recycling collects 33,000 tons annually; drop-off recycling, about 5,500 tons. Other programs, such as household hazardous waste collection, appliance recycling and yard waste collection programs make up the difference.

The regional rate has remained near or above 40 percent for the past several years, making central Virginia one of the highest recycling regions in the state. It was 46.3 percent in 2006, 45.2 percent in 2005. Variations in the rate are attributed to the number of businesses who provide information to CVWMA. Contributions are voluntary.

###