

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Regional Recycling Rate Surpasses 50% for 2008

Central Virginia citizens and businesses recycled 52.8 percent of waste generated in the region in 2008, 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 the region 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 191,181 tons of paper-related material was recycled in 2008. Yard waste and wood waste which are chipped into compost or mulch comprise another 161,231 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 34,739 tons of metal that were recycled in 2008. Clothing donations to organizations such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army contribute to the textiles total of about 8,505 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 2008 was 432,471 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 approximately 35,000 tons annually; drop-off recycling, about 6,000 tons.

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 50.2 percent in 2007, 46.3 percent in 2006. Variations in the rate are attributed to the number of businesses who provide information to CVWMA. Contributions are voluntary.

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