

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Congratulations Central Virginia! CVWMA's Regional Recycling Rate @ 56.6 % for CY 2011 Over One Million Pounds of E-waste Recycled

Thanks to the efforts and commitment to recycling by central Virginia citizens and businesses the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ) has notified Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) that its regional recycling rate has once again **exceeded 55 percent!** This means that an estimated 56.6 % of the waste generated in our region for Calendar Year (CY) 2011 was recycled and kept out of area landfills. This is a slight increase from CVWMA's rate of 55.5% for CY 2010.

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.

Nearly 186,854 tons of paper-related material (newspaper, office paper and cardboard) was recycled in 2011. Yard waste and wood waste which are chipped into compost or mulch comprise another 197,675 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 36,538 tons of metal that were recycled in 2011. Clothing donations to organizations such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army contribute to the textiles total of about 6,759 tons.

The trash generation figure is an estimate based on national research. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that citizens create an average of 4.43 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 providing recycling to the area. **The total amount recycled and not land filled for the region in CY 2011 was 468,646 tons compared to 458,611 tons in CY 2010.**

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 34,000 tons annually; drop-off recycling, about 6,000 tons.

The regional rate has remained above 50 percent for the past several years, making central Virginia one of the highest recycling regions in the state. Variations in the rate are attributed to the number of businesses who provide information to CVWMA. Contributions are voluntary.

In addition, CVWMA's Electronics Recycling Program has surpassed one million pounds of recycled electronics being diverted from local landfills through 85 collection events hosted by our member jurisdictions since November 2004.

For more information on CVWMA programs, visit www.cvwma.com; [CVWMA on Facebook](#); and/or [CVWMA on Twitter](#).

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Serving the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell, Petersburg and Richmond, the Town of Ashland and the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, New Kent, Powhatan and Prince George

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