

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congratulations Central Virginia! DEQ Advises CVWMA that it's Regional Recycling Rate Surpasses 55% for CY 2010

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 **exceeded 55 percent!** This means that an estimated 55.5% of the waste generated in our region for Calendar Year (CY) 2010 was recycled and kept out of area landfills. This is an increase in the percentage rate reported earlier by CVWMA at an estimated 53.6 percent.

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 178,568 tons of paper-related material (newspaper, office paper and cardboard) was recycled in 2010. Yard waste and wood waste which are chipped into compost or mulch comprise another 193,258 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 2010. Clothing donations to organizations such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army contribute to the textiles total of about 5,286 tons.

The trash generation figure is an estimate based on national research. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that citizens create an average of 4.34 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 2010 was 458,611 tons compared to 425,910 tons in CY 2009.**

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. It was 52.8 percent in both CY 2000 and 2010.

Variations in the rate are attributed to the number of businesses who provide information to CVWMA. Contributions are voluntary.

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