

# PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Congratulations Central Virginia!

### CVWMA's Regional Recycling Rate @ 57.7 % for CY 2014

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 57.7% of the waste generated in our region for Calendar Year (CY) 2014 was recycled and kept out of area landfills. This is a slight decrease from CVWMA's rate of 58.4% for CY 2013. The 2014 rate is slightly below the 2013 rate of 58.4% due to an increase in the amount of MSW generated in the region last year. However the amount of Principal Recyclable materials recycled each year remains flat with 505,831 tons in 2013 compared to 504,200 tons in 2014.

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 121,672 tons of paper-related material (newspaper, office paper and cardboard) was recycled in 2014. Yard waste and wood waste which are chipped into compost or mulch comprise another 224,009 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 79,245 tons of metal that were recycled in 2014. Clothing donations to organizations such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army contribute to the textiles total of about 3,982 tons.

The trash generation figure is an estimate based on national research. The Environmental Protection Agency (Franklin Associates) estimates that citizens create an average of 4.38 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 2014 was 504,200 tons compared to 505,831 tons in CY 2013.**

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 36,000 tons annually; drop-off recycling, about 5,600 tons. That is a lot of paper, bottles and cans!

The regional rate has remained above 55 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.

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

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