# Why Recycle?

- Helps protect your health as well as the environment.
- Reduces the amount of waste that must be disposed, which means less waste to incinerate or landfill.
- Reduces air and water pollution.
- Conserves precious
   natural resources, since less raw
   material need to be extracted and
   processed.
- Saves energy for example, by recycling one aluminum can we save enough energy to run a TV set for three hours!
- Reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduces the need to cut down trees to make paper recycling a single run of the Sunday New York Times would save 75,000 trees.
- Makes us be more sustainable because we are borrowing less material and energy from our children's future.
- CT's estimated recycling rate is 24%
   -30%. The CT State Solid Waste
   Management Plan (Dec 2006) calls
   for a 58% recycling rate. We need
   to do better.
- And in Connecticut, it is the law!



### What items are required to be recycled?

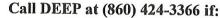
- Glass & metal food and beverage containers
- PET & HDPE plastic containers
- Magazines
- · Corrugated cardboard
- Newspaper
- White office paper
- Color ledger paper
- Boxboard
- Scrap Metal
- Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries (from electronics)
- Waste oil
- Lead acid batteries (from vehicles)
- Leaves
- Grass- banned from disposal at landfills and resource recovery facilities (incinerators). Grass clippings should be left on the lawn or, if necessary, composted.

In addition to the mandated items, many municipalities have ordinances which require additional items to be recycled, such as drink boxes, mini-juice cartons, and discarded mail. To find out about those additional items, contact your municipal recycling contact, your local department of public works, or refer to your town website.

# State law requires that your hauler:

- Provide a warning notice to customers suspected of violating separation requirements.
- Assist the municipality in identifying customers responsible for creating solid waste loads containing significant amounts of recyclables detected by the receiving resource recovery or solid waste facility.
- receiving resource recovery or solid waste facility.

  May not knowingly mix other solid waste with
- May not knowingly mix other solid waste with items designated for recycling.
- May have their garbage loads rejected at a solid waste facility if the load contains a significant amount of recyclables. This costs your hauler time and money. These costs may be passed on to you, the customer.



- You see your hauler mixing recyclables and garbage in the same truck, especially if the truck is not a recycling truck.
- Your hauler tells you that recycling is not necessary or they will recycle a mixed load elsewhere.
- You require technical assistance or further information about starting a recycling program.

## Finally...

Source reduction – the reduction of waste at or near the source of generation (in our homes, businesses, and institutions) and reuse are the best ways to divert the growing volume of waste. The reason is simple:

the less waste generated, the less waste there is to dispose.

In general, reduction and reuse are cost-saving, resource-conserving, environmentally sound alternatives to traditional forms of solid waste management.

And remember – if you are not
buying recycled – you are not
really recycling! Work with your
suppliers to buy reusable, more durable, and recycled
content products.



#### State of Connecticut DEEP

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Bureau of Materials Management and Compliances Assurance Source Reduction & Recycling Program 79 Elm Street

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