



Welcome to **KEEPING OUR COMMUNITIES CLEAN**, an email-newsletter designed to give you a window into what is going on at Waste Management in Ventura County. Topics include waste management issues, community involvement, and environmental protection and legislation.

Remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our renewable energy projects create enough energy to power nearly 1 million homes and save the equivalent of more than 13 million barrels of oil per year.
- The Simi Landfill and Recycling Center alone powers the equivalent of 2,500 homes each day with two landfill gas-to-energy generators using methane gas
- Waste Management's landfills provide more than 21,000 acres of protected habitat for wildlife. The Simi Valley Landfill is one of 49 certified sites by the Wildlife Habitat Council.
- WM's North American operations recycled enough paper and cardboard in one year to save 41 million trees.
- In California, we operate the largest fleet of clean natural gas collection vehicles and have reduced air emissions by 247 tons.

Letter from Mike Smith

Dear Friends:

The beginning of the New Year brings new resolutions, and we hope recycling is included in all of yours.

Thousands of Christmas trees are enjoyed throughout the holidays and properly recycling them is the right thing to do. We thank you for participating in the annual Christmas tree recycling program. In fact, just recently, WM and the Simi Valley Town Center worked together to recycle their 58-foot tree. That tree alone weighed 1.37 tons!



Are you gearing up to watch the Superbowl? Well, right after the game, WM's very own Chief Operating Officer, Larry O'Donnell, will be featured in a new CBS pilot reality series called "Undercover Boss." The show takes top executives and puts them on the front line of the workforce, but undercover!

We're going to add a new feature to our newsletters to highlight our great staff. This month, we've chosen Bruce Matlock, a 40-year Simi resident and 20-year WM team member.

In closing, we experienced our first true taste of the winter season. Inches of rain caused a variety of inconveniences, and there's more to come so make sure to keep your storm drains clear and your trash bins secure to prevent any more inconvenience!

Bundle up, and don't forget to recycle!

Sincerely,

Mike Smith
Director of Operations

Scott Tignac
Landfill District Manager



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New Year New Resolution: **RECYCLE!**

As we begin 2010 and begin to clean up after 2009, don't forget that New Year's resolution you made to recycle. Here at WM, recycling is our first priority – but we need your help to support recycling! Please follow these tips:

- Use the GRAY cart for recyclables – cardboard, glass jars, plastic bottles, newspaper. Click here for a complete list of acceptable items: <http://www.keepingventuracountyclean.com/recyclableitems.html>
- Use the GREEN cart for yardwaste – grass clippings, branches, leaves, shrubs, weeds.... NO foodwaste, animal waste, rocks, dirt, concrete, palm fronds and yucca plants
- Take advantage of the household hazardous and e-waste collections events. Programs vary in each city. Please check your city programs.
- Donate unwanted items to groups and service organizations.
- Go online and be part of the "Freecycle" network at www.freecycle.org. Members post unwanted items online for reuse. It's like eBay, but it's free!
- Practice the 4 R's – REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE and Buy RECYCLED!





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Christmas Tree Recycling

Waste Management's Christmas Tree Recycling Program was a huge success again this year. And when we say huge, we mean 58 feet tall!

The Simi Valley Town Center asked WM to help recycle its 58-foot tall Christmas tree, and we were happy to oblige. The tree, which weighed 1.37 tons, was cut down by hand and recycled in a roll-off box donated by Waste Management.

Due to the size of this tree, special measures had to be taken to ensure that the gigantic symbol of holiday cheer was recycled properly. WM, alongside Agromin (our composting contractor), transforms the green waste into safe and cost-effective compost and mulches for use in agricultural production and community projects.



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Meet the SVLRC: Bruce Matlock

Bruce Matlock, a resident of Simi Valley for more than 40 years, graduated from Simi Valley High School and still a strong supporter of the Pioneers. Bruce has been with Waste Management for 20 years and is responsible for environmental compliance here at the SVLRC.



Environmental protection and regulatory compliance is job one for Bruce every day at the landfill.

"In my position, I am proud to say we have a strong culture of environmental consciousness that goes beyond simply complying with environmental regulations," he said.

Bruce leads all environmental protection efforts for us, including ground water, air quality and odor control. On top of this, Bruce works with the government agencies that regulate us to ensure proper reporting and compliance.

We are glad to have Bruce here to keep everything running smoothly!



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Undercover Boss

Ever wondered how well your boss could do your job? Check out "Undercover Boss," (http://www.cbs.com/primetime/undercover_boss/) a CBS exclusive featuring our own President and COO, Larry O'Donnell, who goes "undercover" as a new employee working different jobs at WM sites.

The WM episode will kick off the new series immediately after the CBS broadcast of the Super Bowl game on Sunday, Feb. 7 at 6:00 pm. Take a look at the January 10, 2010 article in the Los Angeles Times: <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/la-ca-undercover-boss10-2010jan10.0.2926287.story>

