



Keeping Our Communities Clean



Welcome to *KEEPING OUR COMMUNITES 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

- 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

With spring fully underway and the celebration of Earth Day, this is a good opportunity to highlight two of our recycling programs that help the environment and divert waste from our landfills. For those of you tending to your lawns and gardens, don't forget that you can recycle yard trimmings such as grass clippings, leaves and branches in your green yard cart. For those of you who are tackling bigger projects, the Simi Valley Landfill also has a Construction and Demolition Recycling Facility that accepts items such as wood, concrete, dirt and drywall. The C&D facility, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, has recycled more than 40,000 tons of materials!



I'm proud to share that Waste Management and its employees were recently recognized by the Simi Valley Police Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club. As a board member of the Police Foundation, I was honored to accept the Founder's Award at the annual banquet. Also, Scott Tignac, our landfill district manager, and his son received the Volunteers of the Year award from the Boys and Girls Club. Giving back to the community – both professionally and personally – is a priority for us and we're honored to be recognized for our efforts.

If you happen to stop by the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, you may see a familiar face. Ricky Ontiveros recently joined Waste Management as a gas technician at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center.

Finally, make sure you save the date for our free spring residential days! More information is available on our website at: [<http://www.keepingventuracountyclean.com/freedays.html>].

If you have any questions or would like to take a tour of the landfill, please don't hesitate to contact Lisa Hemenway at (805) 581-1746.

Best,
Michael E. Smith
Director of Operations
Waste Management of Ventura County



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Local Recognition

Waste Management is committed to giving back to the local community. In addition to donating money and services to Ventura County organizations, our employees also give back through various volunteer activities. Recently, Waste Management and its employees were recognized for these efforts by the Simi Valley Police Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club.



The Simi Valley Police Foundation presented Waste Management/GI Industries and Mike Smith with the prestigious Founder's Award and a City of Simi Valley Resolution signed by the mayor and council members. The Founder's Award is given each year to organizations that promote the community's overall well-being and individuals who are dedicated to the Foundation's mission of keeping Simi Valley safe.

The Foundation supports community programs that do not receive funding from the annual police budget, including the K-9 Program, Drug Assistance and Resistance Education (D.A.R.E), CrimeStoppers and the Citizen's Patrol Program.

In addition, Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center's district manager Scott Tignac and his son, Josh, recently received the Volunteer of the Year award from the Simi Valley Boys and Girls Club. The father and son team are very involved with the Boys and Girls Club. Scott has served on the Club's Board of Directors since 2004. The Club provides valuable recreational, educational and social programs for children from ages 6 to 18. They work with over 10,000 kids each year.

We're proud of our work in the community and honored to be recognized for our efforts with these awards!



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Go Green with your Greenwaste

With spring fully underway, a lot of time is spent outside maintaining lawns and gardens. If you have a green thumb, remember that most of your greenwaste can be either recycled or put back to work as fertilizer to help produce healthier lawns, plants and flowers.

Residents have several options to reuse their yard waste, including composting. Yard waste materials can be used to create rich nutrients that can be mixed into regular soil. To compost, combine yard trimmings and leaves with kitchen scraps in a compost bin. The materials need to be periodically mixed, turned over and watered to encourage the decomposition process.

To save some time and effort, you also can try grasscycling, which simply means leaving grass clippings in place on your lawn after you mow. The clippings quickly decompose and seep into the ground, providing proper nutrition to fertilize the soil.

The remaining yard trimmings can be recycled – simply place the materials in your green yard cart for collection on your normal service day.

Materials that can be placed in the green yard cart for recycling are:

- Grass clippings
- Branches
- Leaves
- Garden trimmings
- Shrubs
- Cut flowers
- House plants
- Wood chips
- Dead plants
- Weeds

The following materials should not be put in the green yard cart:

- Plastic bags
- Plastic flower pots
- Animal waste
- Palm fronds
- Yucca
- Soil/dirt
- Rocks
- Treated wood
- Foodwaste
- Trash
- Recyclables – these items belong in your gray recyclables cart

Since the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center began its recycling program, over 850,000 tons of greenwaste have been recycled.





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Facility Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

Waste Management's Construction and Demolition Recycling Facility at the Simi Valley Landfill recently celebrated its one-year anniversary. Since it opened, the facility has recycled over 40,317 tons of materials.

The facility accepts wood, concrete, dirt, drywall, metal, cardboard, plastic, roofing materials, carpet, appliances and tile. These materials are sorted onsite and transported to regional facilities to find a "second life" as new products.



Recycling C&D materials helps Simi Valley and Ventura County meet tough state laws that require every city and county in California to divert at least 50 percent of its waste from landfills. It also helps meet requirements in unincorporated parts of Ventura County that mandate commercial and demolition projects to divert at least 60 percent of their waste.

The C&D facility is located at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center at 2801 Madera Road, just north of the 118 Freeway. Co-mingled C&D waste from both the public as well as private contractors is accepted.

For information about C&D recycling services at your job site, please call Tom Jacobellis at (805) 955-4346. For more information about the C&D recycling facility, please call Scott Tignac at (805) 579-7478.



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Gas Technician Keeps It All Under Control

Ricky Ontiveros recently joined Waste Management as a gas technician at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center.

As a gas technician, Ricky monitors, samples and regulates the more than 150 gas wells throughout the site. An advanced landfill gas monitoring and recovery system is just one of many environmental programs in place at SV Landfill. A portion of the methane gas is converted into green energy supplying the landfill site with its electrical needs and the local grid with enough electricity to power 2,500 homes locally.



Outside of WM, Ricky enjoys playing sports, working out, hanging out with friends and going anywhere outdoors.

Welcome to the WM Ventura team, Ricky!