

KEEPING our Communities clean



EMAIL NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

DID YOU KNOW

- *Our renewable energy projects create enough energy to power nearly 1 million homes and save the equivalent of more than 14 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.*
- *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.*

Dear Friends,

It's been a busy couple of months! In April, we hosted an Earth Day Festival and Open House at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. Despite the hot weather that day, it was great to see so many of you out there. We especially want to thank Simi Valley Girl Scout Troop 878 for all of their help — they came up with the slogan for the event, helped hand out free trees to guests and also held planting demonstrations.



We also recently hosted hundreds of Boy Scouts from Ventura County for the annual Ventura County Council Camporee. The Camporee is always a fun event and this year, the Scouts kicked off the weekend with the help of Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy and Simi Valley Mayor Pro-Tem Michelle Foster, among others.

Summer is here and with kids out of school, Waste Management wants to ensure they stay safe, especially around our trucks. We have some simple tips to make sure everyone enjoys the summertime.

In addition, we want to remind residents that it is illegal to scavenge trash or recycling items — including bulky items such as appliances — that are placed curbside for collection.

Finally, Waste Management and Linde North America recently announced a joint venture to build the world's largest landfill gas to liquefied natural gas (LNG) Facility at one of our landfills in Northern California.

If you have any questions or would like to take a tour of the Simi Valley Landfill, please contact Scott Tignac via e-mail or at (805) 579-7478.

Best,
Michael E. Smith
Market Area General Manager
Waste Management of Ventura County

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Open House Draws a Crowd

More than 500 residents joined us at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center on April 12 for our Earth Day Festival and Open House. Simi Valley Girl Scout Troop 878 came up with the slogan of the event — “It doesn’t hurt to play in the dirt” — and helped hand out close to 150 free trees to visitors and also held planting demonstrations.



We were glad to see so many community members taking tours and mingling with each other over music and refreshments despite the heat and wind that day. We also had a lot of young takers for the children’s activities, which included face painting, making crafts with reclaimed, recyclable materials and planting tomato seedlings.

We also held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Butterfly Habitat at the SVLRC, complete with the releasing of live butterflies!

If you couldn’t attend the event and would like to take a tour of the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, please contact Scott Tignac, district manager for the SVLRC, at (805) 579-7478.

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Camping Out

The land surrounding the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center was taken over recently by 450 Boy Scouts for the annual Ventura County Council Camporee.



The Camporee is a local version of the national jamboree that occurs every year. This year's theme was "Service to Others" and Boy Scouts camped out and participated in various competitions over the course of the weekend, including fire safety, knot tying and a first aid challenge.

Special guests at the event included Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy and Simi Valley Mayor Pro-Tem Michelle Foster. Also, there was a three-helicopter flyover by Ventura County Fire, Los Angeles County Fire and Los Angeles Police Department. Approximately 150 parents and volunteer staff also were present to oversee the activities throughout the weekend.

The Camporee weekend is always a fun event for both the Boy Scouts as well as Waste Management employees who enjoy helping to make sure everything unfolds smoothly. WM is proud to participate in the event and to host the Boy Scouts and their families.

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Stay Safe this Summer

Summer is here and Waste Management encourages parents to talk with their children about how to stay safe while playing outside. Our waste and recycling trucks follow routes through local communities to service local customers. Here are a number of ways to stay safe and to allow WM employees to do their jobs to help keep Ventura County Clean:



- Every WM truck is equipped with a back-up alarm. Whether you are walking or driving near one of our trucks, be sure to move out of the way if you hear this sound (a loud beeping) or see the back-up lights.
- Keep your children and pets at a safe distance from the truck. Never get near or climb on the truck — whether it is parked or operating. Do not play or stand in or around trash bins or carts, since you may not know when the truck is coming to empty them. On your collection day, be sure to move toys or cars out of the path of the truck and away from your collection containers.
- Try to avoid cutting in front of or stopping suddenly in front of a WM truck or any commercial vehicle. Large trucks require greater stopping distance than a passenger car. Extend the same courtesies as you would to other drivers and keep a proper cushion of space between you and the truck.
- Do not follow WM trucks on your bike, skates or skateboard. Our trucks make frequent stops and often back up. While driving, pass slowly as soon as it is safe.
- All of our trucks are equipped with a radio or some kind of communication device that connects our drivers to our dispatch centers. If you are experiencing some type of emergency and need help, stand at a safe distance away and wave your arms to motion for help. Do not approach the truck unless the driver tells you it is safe to do so.

With these tips in mind, everyone will have a safe and enjoyable summer.

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Stop Illegal Scavenging

Scavenging of trash or recycling items placed for collection is illegal. To raise awareness, Waste Management, the Simi Valley Police Department and Anderson Rubbish Disposal have partnered to encourage residents to report any illegal scavenging incidents in their neighborhoods.



Scavenging laws are in place to protect the environment and to keep residents safe. In the City of Simi Valley, it is illegal to scavenge trash or recycling items placed for weekly collection. Under state law and city ordinances, only a licensed individual or authorized hauler can pick up items placed at the curb for collection. The regulation applies to items placed in collection containers as well as bulky items placed curbside such as appliances.

Residents should not approach individuals who are scavenging, and instead should call their local law enforcement agency. If the person is driving, please note the make, model and color of the vehicle, as well as the license plate number. Please also provide the date and time the incident occurred.

In addition, residents also are encouraged to shred any documents containing personal information such as credit card numbers and Social Security numbers. With people going through trash and recycling containers, this is one extra step you can take to prevent identity theft. Shredded paper can be recycled if it is placed in a closed paper bag. For more information on what can be recycled, please visit our website.

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World-Class Facility to Power Trucks from Landfill Gas

Waste Management and Linde North America recently announced a joint venture to build a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility at WM's Altamont Landfill in Northern California. The facility will be the world's largest of its kind and will convert landfill gas into a clean vehicle fuel. The project offers a unique opportunity to "close the loop" by fueling hundreds of collection trucks with clean fuel produced from garbage.



In Simi Valley, WM currently owns and operates a LNG fueling station site and operates approximately 40 LNG vehicles. The fueling station is one of 13 that WM operates in California; many of these stations are public access facilities that provide fuel to other fleet operators. The proposed modernization and expansion project for the Simi Valley Landfill would include a state-of-the-art LNG facility, similar to the Altamont Landfill facility.

Each year, Waste Management's natural gas trucks eliminate the need for nearly three million gallons of diesel fuel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 4,700 tons. The company's commitment to clean-burning alternative fuels has been recognized by the Coalition for Clean Air, the California League of Conservation Voters, the Ventura Air Pollution Control District, and the U.S. Department of Energy.