



Keeping Our Communities Clean



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.

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

Hope everyone had a happy and safe Fourth of July!

Can you believe we're almost in the middle of summer? This is a perfect time to reflect on some of the great things happening here at Waste Management.

First of all, I'm pleased to tell you that our Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center is now a designated spot for Ventura County residents to recycle gas-powered lawn mowers and qualify for over a fifty percent discount on environmentally friendly electric mowers. More importantly, your decision will help reduce carbon emission around your home and neighborhood.



This summer Waste Management staff went "back to school" and participated in the Cate School's first Sustainable Systems Institute Program for Environmental Science teachers. We believe the environmental science teachers are not just instructors – they're also environmental advocates. This is another great way to get teachers and students excited about environmental science.

In celebration of Earth Day, Waste Management and Wolf Den 5 from Pack 3663 earned their World Conservation Award by planting historical trees at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center's new Pollinator Garden. We really appreciate the Cub Scouts for giving back to the community and the planet.

I'm proud to share that Waste Management was recently recognized by Ventura County Leadership Academy as the 2009 Distinguished Business Leader of the Year. We are deeply honored by this award. Recognition like this keeps our community spirit alive and continues to motivate us in providing exceptional service to the communities in which we serve.

Lastly, one of our very own, Lisa Hemenway, Community Relations Manager, recently graduated from Leadership Simi Valley Class of 2009 Best by Design – Making a Difference in Time. The group's capstone project involved renovating Sarah's House, a Christian Maternity home for unwed mothers.

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.

We hope that you have a wonderful summer and please remember to recycle at home and or the workplace.

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



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New Lawn Mower Recycling Program

The Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District have teamed up to make it easier for residents of Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and Moorpark to recycle gas-powered lawn mowers and qualify for discounts on environmentally friendly electric mowers.

The Pollution Control District's voucher program offers \$129 off a standard corded electric mower or \$200 off a cordless electric mower at Lowe's stores in Ventura or Simi Valley or through an online vendor, Neuton.

The program just started a month ago and we are proud to announce that the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center has already recycled 37 gas-powered lawn mowers!

Residents who bring gasoline lawn mowers to the Simi Valley Landfill will be given a receipt to attach to the voucher application form, which must be submitted to the Pollution Control District's office in Ventura.

All mowers must be drained of any oil and gasoline.

Vouchers are limited to one per household. Call (805) 645-1408 for more information or visit http://www.vcapcd.org/LawnMower_EN.htm.

For directions and operating hours for the Simi Valley Landfill, call (805) 579-7267 or visit <http://www.keepingventuracountyclean.com/>.





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Waste Management Goes "Back to School"

Waste Management (WM) environmental experts taught special lessons on topics including solid waste management, landfill operations and design, green house gas, fleet compliance, renewable energy and new technologies during Cate School's Sustainable Systems Institute Program for Environmental Science teachers.

Cate School, a residential high school located in the coastal mountains of Santa Barbara County, hosted the weeklong event for teachers from California, Washington and from far away as Georgia who wanted to gain a greater understanding of key topics covered in the Environmental Science Curricula, including solid waste management.

Environmental Science Teachers were invited to the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center (SVLRC) for an onsite landfill tour of green energy programs, greenwaste recycling and construction and demolition diversion facilities. Additionally, teachers got a close up look at a new WM Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) vehicle.

In celebration of National Pollinator Week, the group ended the day by taking a nature hike at the SVLRC's new Pollinator Garden.





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Historical Tree Planting

In celebration of Earth Day, Waste Management and Cub Scout's Wolf Den 5 from Pack 3663 planted historical trees at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center's new Pollinator Garden. Planted historical trees included an Andrew Jackson Southern Magnolia, Dwight D. Eisenhower Green Ash, Clara Barton Redbud, Gettysburg Address Honey Locust and an Elvis Presley Sweetgum.



The trees were planted in Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center's new Pollinator Garden, a two-acre outdoor educational arena, which will provide the community an opportunity to learn about pollination, five local eco-systems including Chaparral, Woodland, Grassland, Venturian Coastal Sage and Riparian and recycling—it's right here in our own backyard.

The Cub Scouts planted trees to fulfill their requirement of earning the World Conservation Award. In celebration of the event, WM gave each Cub Scout a Certificate of Appreciation and a WM reusable bag filled with goodies. The Pollinator Garden is in the final stages and will be completed by the end of Summer 2009.

Thank you Cub Scouts for your incredible work and environmental stewardship!



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WM received 2009 Distinguished Business of the Year Award

Waste Management was the recipient of the Ventura County Leadership Academy's 2009 Distinguished Business Leader of the Year Award at the recent 8th Annual Spotlight Leadership Luncheon at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Ventura.

The "Spotlight on Leadership" Awards Luncheon recognized Waste Management for its leadership in environmental solutions for waste and recycling services for over 100,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers within Ventura County.

This award represents the dedication and hard work from all of our employees in providing quality service and giving back to the community. We deeply thank the VCLA for this award and are honored to be amongst the top community leaders!

For more information visit <http://www.vcunitedway.com/>





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Hemenway Graduates Leadership Academy

In June, Waste Management's Community Relations Manager, Lisa Hemenway successfully graduated from Leadership Simi Valley Class of 2009 Best by Design – Making a Difference in Time.



Leadership Simi Valley, a program offered through the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, is a ten-month program designed to bring together individuals from diverse backgrounds to develop leadership qualities and collaboratively engage in a community service project. Hemenway's class chose to renovate Sarah's House, a Christian Maternity home for unwed mothers. The class aimed to improve the quality of life, provide resources and instill a sense of independence for the mothers and children who live at Sarah's House.

To raise the necessary funds for the project, various fundraising events took place, including Bowling for Babies, Recycling Campaign, McDonald's Family Night and Coffee Sales. The success of the events raised over \$12,000 for Sarah's House.

WM is proud to now have two alumni's from the Leadership Simi Valley program. Scott Tignac, Simi Valley Landfill's District Area Manager graduated from Class 2008.

For more information on Leadership Simi Valley, contact the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce at 805-526-3900 or visit the Web site at www.simichamber.org.