

KEEPING our Communities clean



EMAIL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2007

DID YOU KNOW

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- *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 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,

The end of summer is a good opportunity to give you an update on some of our recent activities, here at Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center and G.I. Industries.

Our plans for the future have been the topic of recent discussion and we want to make sure that the community understands that we are committed to an open and transparent review process for the landfill expansion. We are about to begin the state-mandated process that will ensure a fair and independent evaluation of our plans and include extensive time for community input. Ventura County is the lead agency in the review process and has the discretion to determine whether and how an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared. WM has always expected and advocated for a full environmental review of the project. The draft EIR is always circulated to the public and we will make sure to post it on our site – as we have been doing with all of the project updates – and also circulate it to the public.

As part of our community outreach efforts, we recently welcomed members of the Simi Valley Neighborhood Councils, as well as local residents, to tour the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. We are always excited for the opportunity to provide a first-hand look at our facility and operations.

We also recently held our annual Touch a Truck event for the students at Madera Elementary School. This is a fun event that uses Waste Management trucks to educate children about recycling and protecting the environment event and is always a popular one among the students as well as our employees.

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Finally, earlier in the summer, we partnered with Wal-Mart for a successful event to collect fluorescent light bulbs from local residents. Fluorescent bulbs last longer than regular bulbs, but they contain mercury and cannot be disposed in landfills in California. This event helped drive awareness about safe disposal for fluorescent bulbs and other universal waste. If you have any questions about what can and cannot be

included in your trash, please visit our website.

We would like to hear from you and if you couldn't make it to the recent round of tours, please remember that we have an open door policy. Please contact Scott Tignac, the landfill district manager, at 805-579-7478 at any time to arrange a tour to learn more about us and our plans.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Smith
Market Area Manager

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Update on Future Plans

At Waste Management, we value our relationship with the local community and have committed ourselves to ensuring that the review process for the expansion of the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center is fair and transparent.

Our application falls under the guidelines of a state law passed almost 40 years ago: the California Environmental Quality Act or CEQA. This law requires local agencies to assess and detail the environmental impacts of projects before any construction or development can begin. CEQA is significant because it protects the interests of local residents by ironing out the details of the project and ensuring that all relevant issues have been clarified in advance.

The Ventura County Planning Department is charged with leading the CEQA process for the landfill expansion and they have requested additional information from us regarding our proposal. Technically, the CEQA process starts once a detailed project description and conditional use permit application have been deemed complete. We are in the process of responding to the County's requests and are posting updates on our website.

Once the County has determined that the application is complete, the County will decide whether and how an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be prepared. Public meetings will be conducted by the County as part of the process to determine the scope of the EIR. WM has always expected and advocated for a full environmental review of the project. The initial draft EIR document is always circulated to the public.

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Residents of Ventura County (and other interested parties) will be encouraged to read the document and provide comments and feedback - all of which will become part of the project's public record. In addition, there will be multiple public meetings during which residents can weigh in on the project. Our commitment to the community is to support these discussions by providing all interested parties with access to all of

the available information. We will post the EIR on our website and make it available at locations throughout the County.

Until then, we invite the public to visit us, to take a tour of the landfill, and to get as much background information as possible, so that when the EIR is complete, they can help us make this the very best project possible - and make it a project that meets the needs of all of Ventura County, as well as the community of Simi Valley.

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Simi Valley Landfill Hosts Local Tours

We have an open door policy at Waste Management/G.I. Industries and we recently invited members of the Simi Valley Neighborhood Councils to tour the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. Our guests got a first-hand look at our facility in action and the planned expansion site.

In addition, we extended a formal invitation to the public to join the four tours set aside for the Councils. The idea for the tours with the Neighborhood Councils came about after Mayor Paul Miller requested that Waste Management coordinate with the Councils and keep members informed about WM's expansion project.

Since it's important to us that our neighbors understand our operations and our future plans, we are pleased that so many individuals took us up on the tour offer. Participants got to see our green power facility which produces enough energy for 2,500 homes every year as well as power for the landfill. At another stop on the tour we visited the landfill falconer. We use a trained falcon to act as a natural deterrent to keep bird pests away from the landfill. We explained the geography and details of our planned expansion area, and showed visitors the expansion area, which sits inside the hillside ridges and has minimal visual impact.

The tours are only one aspect of Waste Management's outreach to local residents. Officials from WM will continue to provide updates to the Councils and to the community regarding the status of the project approval process. More information about the project can be found on our website.

If you couldn't make it to the recent tours, please contact Scott Tignac, the district manager of the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center, at 805-579-7478 to set up a time for an individual tour.

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“Touch A Truck” Comes to Madera Elementary

Over the years, we’ve discovered that our trash trucks are popular with little kids. We’ve brought out the trucks for our biggest fans on special occasions and have even put together “Touch a Truck”, events that use the trucks to

educate children about recycling and protecting the environment. Recently, the students of Madera Elementary School participated in Touch a Truck, an event that is just as popular with the students as it is with our employees.

The Madera event came about after Waste Management donated a certificate for the Touch a Truck party to the annual autumn auction for the elementary school. The highest bidder for the auction won a presentation on safety and recycling and a pizza party for their child’s entire class.

During the party, we told the children about the cycle of trash—from disposal through recycling, and we emphasized the long-term environmental benefits of recycling. Children got to climb aboard the truck and see the hydraulic gear in action. They also learned the importance of staying a safe distance from trash trucks at all times. It’s especially exciting to know that we’re educating the next generation of environmentalists.

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Wal-Mart and Waste Management Team Up for Recycling Event

Fluorescent light bulbs are a great – and longer-lasting – source of light, but they contain mercury, a hazardous material which cannot be placed in the trash in California. To

help local residents safely dispose of these light bulbs, Wal-Mart and Waste Management teamed up for a special collection event at the end of June.

The event was conducted in partnership with Waste Management's LampTracker, Inc. and offered consumers a free and convenient opportunity to drop-off and recycle their used compact fluorescent light bulbs (also referred to as CFLs) and fluorescent tubes. Wal-Mart stores, Supercenters and Sam's Clubs across California, Minnesota, Massachusetts and Rhode Island participated in the event.

To protect your health and the environment, California law requires all residents to take CFLs along with batteries, computers, cell phones, thermostats, and other items known as Universal Waste to designated disposal sites.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board estimates that almost 75 million waste fluorescent lamps and tubes are generated annually in California. CFLs use about one-fourth the energy of conventional light bulbs and can last 10 times longer. Replacing a conventional light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb helps save money in electricity costs and also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

WM is the largest recycler in North America and we're proud to help consumers recycle CFLs safely. For local residents, there are also monthly collections of household hazardous waste items. The dates vary depending on which city you live in and you must sign up in advance to be a part of the collection. For more information, please visit <http://earth911.org/>.