

# KEEPING our Communities clean

**WM.**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT  
**Think Green!**

EMAIL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

## DID YOU KNOW

- *Waste Management, combined with its wholly owned subsidiary Recycle America (WMRA), is North America's largest recycler, recycling enough paper last year to save more than 41 million trees.*
- *By recycling more than 57,000 tons of steel cans, WM reduces greenhouse gasses equivalent to taking more than 21,000 cars off the road each year.*
- *Waste Management's landfills provide more than 17,000 acres of protected habitat for wildlife, and 15 are certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council.*
- *By processing 21 million pounds of e-scrap, WM keeps 313,000 monitors/TVs and 175,000 CPU hard drives from being disposed in landfills.*



## Dear Friends,

As you may have heard, Waste Management recently resubmitted its application to the Ventura County Planning Department for the modernization and expansion of the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. The revised application is a follow-up to the original application, which was submitted to the County in April of this year.

Once the application is deemed complete by the County, we will be reaching out to the local community to gather input on our proposed plans. In the meantime, you can view the updated application on our website. As always, we encourage you to visit the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center to get a better understanding of our operations. However, if you can't make it in person, make sure to check out our online tour.

We've also been busy in the community with several projects, including helping with Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County's first build in Simi Valley and the Simi Valley Animal Rescue Volunteers' event Wag N' Walk.

We thought you'd enjoy meeting Marisa Lara who works at the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center. Working at WM is a family affair for Marisa – her dad, two uncles and a cousin are all drivers with the company.

Finally, on a company-wide level, I am proud to share two notable achievements. First, Waste Management was named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, a prestigious selection of companies judged on their global leadership in sustainability and economic performance. Secondly, WM was recently recognized by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

I look forward to seeing you around town or at one of our landfill tours.

Sincerely,

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

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## Helping Our Four-Legged Friends

More than 300 pet owners and their dogs recently participated in the second annual Wag N' Walk charity event to raise money for Animal Rescue Volunteers (ARV). Since ARV relies on volunteers and donations from the community to rescue animals, it was important for Waste Management to sign up as a corporate sponsor for the event.

ARV is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization that has been rescuing dogs, cats and horses since 1994. The group provides food, care and foster homes for the animals until they are adopted. Adoptions are held every week at PetSmart in Simi Valley.

During the Wag N' Walk, participants walked their pets over a three-mile path that began at Rancho Simi Community Park at the corner of Royal Avenue and Erringer Road. At last year's event, participants raised \$30,000 and officials are hoping this year's total exceeds that donation amount.

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- *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 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.*



## WM Assists with Habitat for Humanity's Build in Simi Valley

Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County recently kicked off a three-house building project at the intersection of Royal and Sequoia

Avenues in Simi Valley. This is Habitat's first build in Simi Valley and to assist with the project, Waste Management donated four large roll-off containers that were used to recycle the brush and trees cleared from the build site.

Once the construction begins, the debris that will be collected from the building sites will be brought to the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center and processed free of charge. Much of the construction waste, such as aluminum, asphalt, concrete, plastic rebar, steel and wood, will be recycled, in order to help reduce the environmental impact of the construction process.

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## Meet Marisa Lara

A life-long resident of Simi Valley (and a proud graduate of Royal High School), Marisa Lara has been with the company since January 2005. She is in charge of the scalehouse operations at the landfill and oversees three cashiers. Her team is responsible for managing loads coming to the site including weighing the loads and checking

for hazardous waste items (such as electronics). The biggest component of her job is customer service and ensuring that the scalehouse line keeps moving.

“We have three scales at the landfill so things can get hectic, but I really enjoy working with my customers the most,” she says. “Dealing with a wide variety of people has also helped me to become more assertive and that’s something I try to teach other female employees.”

It turns out that working at WM is a family affair. Lara has two uncles and a cousin who are all drivers at G.I. Industries. And while her dad recently moved to Tucson, he is still employed by Waste Management.

In addition to her job, Lara is also busy planning for her upcoming wedding and will be going back to Moorpark College after the wedding to take some business classes. “I really enjoy working with numbers and math. That’s probably why I like my job at Waste Management so much,” she explained. “I’m constantly learning though – both at my job and through Moorpark College – and I hope that never changes.”

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## Notable Recognitions

Recently, Waste Management was recognized for its inclusion in two different reports. WM was named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Index for the third consecutive year. The Index is a prestigious selection of companies judged on their global leadership in sustainability and

economic performance. To view the Index, visit [www.djindexes.com/](http://www.djindexes.com/) and complete the free registration.

WM was also one of 143 leading companies to earn a perfect "100" score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Corporate Equality Index. Most notably, WM was the only environmental service company named in the report. The full report is available online at [www.hrc.org/placestowork/](http://www.hrc.org/placestowork/).