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## **RIVERBEND LANDFILL TO CONVERT WASTE INTO ‘GREEN’ POWER FOR MCMINNVILLE WATER & LIGHT**

*Project Will Generate Clean, Renewable Electricity for 2,500 Homes*

**McMINNVILLE, Ore. – (April 9, 2009)** – McMinnville Water & Light and Waste Management’s Riverbend Landfill today announced an agreement to convert Yamhill County’s waste into electricity to power 2,500 homes. The project is a “first” for Yamhill County and an important addition to Waste Management’s nationwide system of landfill gas-to-energy facilities.

“We are excited to provide McMinnville customers with this low-cost and sustainable source of green power,” said Paul Elias, general manager of McMinnville Water & Light. “Landfill gas is an especially smart option for us because it’s a resource we already have in the community. That translates to lower costs for our customers because there are no transmission fees.

“The fact that landfill gas is renewable and reliable is important as well,” Elias said. “Wind and solar energy are renewable but not as reliable. With gas from Riverbend, we will have a steady and renewable source of clean and low-cost energy for 20 years.”

Waste Management will invest \$10 million in the project, which will involve the installation of six internal combustion engines at Riverbend Landfill. Energy production is expected to begin in spring 2010.

If the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners approves the landfill’s application to expand, Riverbend will generate even more energy for McMinnville for another 30-50 years.

“We are pleased to bring this innovative and sustainable technology to McMinnville as part of our broader commitment to advancing sustainability in Yamhill County,” said George Duvendack, Riverbend’s district manager. “Waste Management is a leader in renewable energy technologies and is eager to bring our expertise to Yamhill County as new technologies make sense here, environmentally and economically.”

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## **‘GREEN’ POWER**

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Landfill gas is generated as waste decomposes at landfills. Landfill gas is 50-60 percent methane and 40-50 percent carbon dioxide. At most landfills in the United States, these greenhouse gases are burned off, or “flared.”

However, Waste Management sites with gas-to-energy facilities collect the methane and use it to fuel onsite engines or turbines, generating electricity to power homes and businesses. Landfill gas-to-energy facilities reduce greenhouse gases by offsetting the use of fossil fuels at the power plants.

In fact, landfill gas is endorsed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as an environmentally friendly energy resource that reduces reliance on fossil fuels including coal and oil.

Riverbend’s landfill gas-to-energy facility is part of Waste Management’s corporate initiative to build 60 new renewable energy facilities by 2012. In 2009 alone, Waste Management plans to bring on line 10 landfill-gas-to-energy facilities. These will be in addition to the 112 facilities now operating at its landfill sites and third-party sites across North America.

Landfill gas-to-energy is also a key component of the company’s environmental sustainability initiative to increase its waste-based energy production. Today, Waste Management creates enough energy to serve 1 million homes each year. By 2020, it expects to double that output, producing enough energy for more than 2 million homes.

### **About Waste Management**

*Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Our subsidiaries provide collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. We are also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. Our customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. More information about how Waste Management Thinks Green® can be found at [www.wm.com/wm/thinkgreen](http://www.wm.com/wm/thinkgreen).*

### **About McMinnville Water & Light**

*McMinnville Water & Light provides low-cost, reliable electricity and fresh, clean drinking water to McMinnville residents and businesses. Founded in 1889, McMinnville Water & Light is recognized for providing some of the lowest cost power and water rates in the country, while achieving a leadership role in conservation and renewable energy. Today the utility also operates, maintains, and manages a 25-mile fiber optic network to serve the City of McMinnville and McMinnville school districts. For more information, go to [www.mc-power.com](http://www.mc-power.com).*

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