

Waste Management Named EPA Landfill Methane Outreach Program Industry Partner of the Year

North America's largest landfill gas-to-energy owner and operator recognized for leadership in waste-based renewable energy development

HOUSTON – January 18, 2012 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) has named Waste Management, Inc. (NYSE: WM) its 2011 Industry Partner of the Year for leadership in developing waste-based renewable energy. Waste Management is the largest landfill gas-to-energy (LFGTE) developer and operator in North America and is continuing to expand its roster of energy facilities. This year's awards were presented earlier today at the 15th Annual LMOP Partner and Project of the Year Awards Ceremony in Baltimore, MD.

To view a short video explaining how landfills can power homes, college campuses and more, visit the WM video- [Landfill Power: Turning Gas into Energy](#).

In 2011, WM commissioned nine LFGTE facilities with a collective capacity of 29.5 MW, bringing the number of LFGTE facilities to 133 active projects in North America. In total, these facilities produced the equivalent of 617 MW of power - enough to power 473,000 homes, and offset the consumption of over 2.4 million tons of coal. Waste Management plans to commission four additional projects in the first quarter of 2012 and is working on at least eight additional projects through its dedicated in-house project development team, which works on both WM-owned sites and those owned by municipalities and industry partners.

"It is an honor to be recognized as a leading partner in this sector by the EPA, and a testament to the hard work of our team over the last several years," said Paul Pabor, vice president of renewable energy at Waste Management. "Waste Management developed much of the technology still in use today, and continues to find new ways to capture resources in waste. We're looking forward to continued innovation, creating electricity, generating renewable fuels and powering local businesses with the resources at our disposal."

Waste Management was active in two projects that won 2010 Project of the Year. The first, the University of New Hampshire EcoLine™ project, brought gas from Waste Management's Turnkey Landfill through a 12-mile pipe, supplying 85 percent of the campus's heat and electricity needs. The second, at the Altamont Landfill Resource and Recovery Facility in Livermore, CA, consisted of a partnership with Linde North America. There, the companies produce up to 13,000 gallons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from landfill gas every day to fuel hundreds of WM fleet vehicles. The Altamont project is the largest landfill gas-to-LNG project in the world.

Landfill gas, generated by the natural breakdown of organic materials in a landfill, contains large amounts of methane that can be collected to generate electricity, power local businesses or be turned into transportation fuel. A successful program can turn a modern landfill from a mere disposal site to a source of clean, renewable energy to power homes and fuel vehicles.

Waste Management is continually exploring new technologies and services to generate renewable energy from waste. LFGTE complements the company's other waste services in the areas of recycling, landfill operations and waste-based energy technology. LFGTE projects also contribute to one of Waste Management's sustainability goals, doubling energy generation by 2020 to power the equivalent of 2 million homes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Media
Tim Frost
713.328.7545
tfrost@wm.com

EPA's LMOP has assisted with more than 500 LFG energy projects over the past 16 years. The United States currently has about 575 operational LFG energy projects which annually supply more than 14 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity and ~102 billion cubic feet of LFG to direct-use applications. There is still significant potential for expansion of the technology; LMOP has identified over 500 landfills that could provide an additional 1,155 MW of electrical power.

ABOUT WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management, Inc., based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is one of the largest residential recyclers in North America as well as a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company's customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more information about Waste Management visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com.

This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Statements relating to future events and performance are "forward-looking statements" and include statements regarding timing and existence of future LFGTE projects, continued innovation and expansion of technology and future production from and benefits of LFGTE projects. Forward-looking statements are often identified by the words, "will," "may," "should," "continue," "anticipate," "believe," "expect," "plan," "forecast," "project," "estimate," "intend" and words of similar nature. You should view these statements with caution. They are based on the facts and circumstances known to us as of the date the statements are made. A number of risks and uncertainties, either alone or taken together, could cause actual results to be materially different from those set forth in such forward-looking statement. Some of these risks and uncertainties are described in detail in Waste Management's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. We assume no obligation to update any forward-looking statement.

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