

**For immediate release**

Contact:  
Bill Plunkett  
(708) 751-8701

**Waste Management's Bluff City Transfer Facility in Elgin  
attains LEED® Gold certification from U.S. Green Building Council**

**Among nation's first waste transfer stations to win LEED® recognition**

Elgin, IL, Tuesday, October 28, 2008 – Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. said its Bluff City Transfer Facility dedicated here today is the first such project in Illinois and one of the first in the United States to be recognized by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) with certification under its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) program.

The council awarded the facility gold certification, its second highest LEED rating. Developed by USGBC ([www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org)), LEED certification represents independent, third-party verification that a building project meets the highest green building and performance measures. The nationally recognized certification demonstrates that a project conforms to rigid environmental, energy and health standards as a place to work and operate.

The 15-acre transfer facility, at 1225 Gifford Road, Elgin, serves as a key component of integrated waste processing for communities in Kane, Cook, and Du Page counties. The facility is permitted to process non-hazardous solid wastes, recyclables and yard wastes. Materials recovered by local collection trucks are taken to the facility, where they are consolidated and transferred to larger semi-trailers for shipment to processing facilities or remote disposal sites. Its purpose is to achieve efficiency in waste processing and reduce transportation costs for the community.

The Bluff City Transfer Facility earned 42 LEED rating points, including 29 for design and 13 for construction. The facility, designed by the Darien, IL-based architectural firm Wight & Company, merited recognition for number of environmental and energy-efficient elements. Among them were: water use reduction; the diversion of construction waste from landfills; use of wood meeting the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council certification program; the use of locally manufactured construction materials with high recycled content; and the reduction of energy usage by approximately 65 percent.

The project's surface water management system includes a constructed wetland area with a boardwalk featuring environmentally educational signage; erosion and sedimentation control; and water efficient landscaping that eliminates the use of potable water. The facility merited recognition for a number of elements, including:

- Site selection that avoided habitats for threatened or endangered species;
- Open space exceeding local zoning requirements by 25 percent;
- Storm water management and vegetated bioswales to reduce discharge rates;

- Reflective roof paneling on the transfer building and a vegetated green roof on the ticket building to reduce heat island effect and adverse impacts on the local climate and habitat;
- And site exterior and interior lighting designed to reduce light pollution.

The site also incorporated other features to increase the site's water efficiency and reduce potable water usage by 77 percent. These included:

- Native and drought tolerant landscaping;
- Low-flow faucets, showers, urinals and dual-flush toilets;
- A rainwater collection cistern to capture water for toilet flushing and provide water for tipping floor cleaning;
- And low-flow plumbing fixtures for facets, showers and toilets.

“Our Bluff City Transfer Facility represents a continuing commitment by Waste Management to pursue sustainability goals and responsible environmental stewardship,” said Steve Batchelor, Market Area Vice President for Waste Management of Illinois. “Because we are in the environmental services business, this is important recognition for this facility and it is doubly gratifying to our Company and people. We are truly delighted the U.S. Green Building Council has chosen to bestow this honor on Waste Management for our efforts to develop a facility that meets the highest environmental standards.”

Batchelor added, “Waste Management has made a commitment to sustainability. Last year we outlined four companywide goals to help us continue to meet the growing need for smart, innovative waste management solutions. By the year 2020, we expect to triple the volume of recyclables we manage to 24 million tons a year; to double the waste-based energy we produce to meet the needs of two million homes; to increase our collection fleet's fuel efficiency by 15 percent; and to expand the number of wildlife habitats at our landfills to 25,000 acres.”

“Transfer stations are a vital component for recycling and disposal of solid waste in Illinois and I want to commend Waste Management for the environmentally-beneficial design and construction that has resulted in Bluff City Transfer Facility becoming the first LEED certified transfer station in the state,” said Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Director Doug Scott.

“Waste Management of Illinois should be commended for choosing to pursue LEED as a part of its commitment to sustainability,” said Lauren Blissard, Chair of the U.S. Green Building Council - Chicago Chapter, who presented the LEED gold certificate to the company. “It should also be noted that this is an excellent example of corporate responsibility that hopefully other organizations will strive to emulate.”

#### **About Waste Management**

Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. is a subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc. Based in Houston, Texas, Waste Management, Inc. 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. For more information, visit [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com).

#### **About the U.S. Green Building Council**

The U.S. Green Building Council is a nonprofit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable

built environment within a generation. Its membership includes corporations, builders, universities, government agencies, and other nonprofit organizations. Since USGBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 13,000 member companies and organizations, a comprehensive family of LEED® green building rating systems, an expansive educational offering, the industry's popular Greenbuild International Conference and Expo ([www.greenbuildexpo.org](http://www.greenbuildexpo.org)), and a network of 72 local chapters, affiliates, and organizing groups. For more information, visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

#### **About LEED®**

The LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System™ is a feature-oriented rating system that awards buildings points for satisfying specified green building criteria. The six major environmental categories of review include: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation and Design. Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels of LEED green building certification are awarded based on the total number of points earned within each LEED category. LEED can be applied to all building types including new construction, commercial interiors, core & shell developments, existing buildings, homes, neighborhood developments, schools and retail facilities. LEED for Healthcare is currently under development and is expected to be released in early 2008.

Incentives for LEED are available at the state and local level and LEED has also been adopted nationwide by federal agencies, state and local governments, and interested private companies. For more information, visit [www.usgbc.org/LEED](http://www.usgbc.org/LEED).

#### **About Wight & Company**

Wight & Company is a leader in integrated solutions for the built environment. Its professional staff of more than 185 specialists has been providing clients with architecture and engineering services since 1939, and design-build and construction management services for more than a decade. As the architect for one of the first LEED certified buildings in the country, the first LEED certified school in Illinois, and one of a handful of LEED Platinum buildings in the nation, Wight is committed to green design and construction principles. It maintains offices in downtown Chicago, Darien, Ill., and South Bend, Ind. For more information, visit [www.wightco.com](http://www.wightco.com).

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