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WASTE MANAGEMENT: MAKE YOUR HALLOWEEN GREEN

Phoenix, October 7th, 2009 – This season, Waste Management reminds its customers to save money and Think Green® by avoiding traditional Halloween routines – that usually result in waste -- in favor of recyclable, eco-friendly habits.

- Use the whole pumpkin: Most everyone buys a pumpkin to celebrate the holiday and ends up tossing it in the trash on Nov. 1. However, avoiding that waste is easy by using the pumpkin both for food and decoration. It's easy to bake the seeds with a little bit of salt for a tasty and healthy snack; or, puree the freshly cutout pieces for recipes that call for fresh pumpkin – avoiding canned pumpkin. All other parts of the pumpkin can be added to your compost pile.
- Skip the expensive plastic costumes: Put less stress on your wallet by opting for costumes made of reusable or recycled materials. Incite your family's creativity by constructing a unique, exciting costume from scratch. Check out the thrift store for some easy-to-do ideas like a flapper or a gypsy.
- Use recyclable bags for your Trick-or-Treaters: A fun family activity is to create a unique Trick-or-Treat basket, or simply put a reusable bag to good use. Avoiding the plastic Jack-O-Lantern type containers will avoid clutter, save money, and add a dash of originality to your Trick-or-Treaters' costume.
- Candy Options Are Out There: When stocking up for the Oct. 31, look for candy brands that donate part of their profits to environmental causes; Fair Trade-sourced chocolates; or sweets made with pure cane sugar, fruit juice, and natural colors. If you're skipping candy for health reasons, try handing out small toys, pencils, or soy crayons. And buy in bulk to avoid the packaging waste.
- DIY Decorations: Making your own decorations provides yet another money-saving, green-going opportunity. Must-haves like plastic spiders, witches and ghosts can be a one-time purchase saved for use, year after year. When possible, look for reclaimed material; if you're buying things you know you can't keep—like streamers or paper plates—be sure to look for brands that are both recycled and recyclable.

Waste Management reminds its communities that where others see waste, we see opportunity. We're working to find the most efficient and forward-thinking approach to waste. With the help of our communities, all of us can help protect the environment and improve the quality of life on the planet we share.

About Waste Management:

Waste management and its 980 Arizona employees provide waste and recycling services to nearly 500,000 customers throughout Arizona. For more information, go to www.wmofarizona.com.

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. To learn more visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com.

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