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RECYCLING CONTEST SPARKS INNOVATION, CREATIVITY *5TH Grade Classes Compete for D-backs Tickets*

Phoenix, AZ, April 19th, 2010 – Recycling is quickly becoming a way of life, especially now that students in the Valley are so committed to the cause. That's why the Paradise Valley School District, Waste Management, and the Arizona Diamondbacks have teamed up for the first annual Recycling Challenge.

Fifth-grade students district-wide will compete to see which class can build the best "new" product utilizing recycled materials. Each of the classes will spend the week of April 19th gathering paper, cardboard, plastic, and aluminum collected from home. The following week, beginning on April 26th, the classes will design and build a new product using those materials.

"This contest will put our students' science skills to the test while focusing on the environment, which is a relevant current affairs topic," said Paradise Valley Science Curriculum Specialist Linda Coyle. "We're excited to see what the classes come up with."

The goal of the contest is to help educate the students and the community about recycling using an interactive forum that also incorporates the science curriculum.

"The D-backs are excited to be involved with students from the Paradise Valley School District and we can't wait to see what they create," said D-backs' Vice President, Corporate and Community Partnerships Debbie Castaldo, "The commitment of this young generation to improve our planet is both exciting and inspiring. We are honored to partner with Waste Management in their ongoing efforts to create wonderful and meaningful programs in our community."

The winning class's project will be featured on May 10th at Chase Field when the D-backs take on the Los Angeles Dodgers. The class will also receive tickets to that game, and the top three classes will all get pizza parties. The top 3 projects will be showcased in the education center at Waste Management's new recycling facility, which is scheduled to open at the end of the year in Surprise, AZ.

"These students are so in tune with the environmental challenges we face," said Waste Management Recycling Director Carrie Galvan. "This is a wonderful opportunity for them to show us what they would do to turn waste into a resource. We expect these projects to be a true inspiration to the community, as well as to those of us who work in the environmental industry."

The winning project will be picked on May 3rd by a panel of judges made up of Waste Management and the Paradise Valley School District employees. Projects will be judged on originality, functionality, and usage of the scientific process. Waste Management will provide financial support for supplies for each class, as well as recycling receptacles during the week of the materials collection.

About Waste Management

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.

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.

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