

WASTE MANAGEMENT OF CALIFORNIA CELEBRATES WASTE-TO-ENERGY MILESTONE AND ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH

Waste Management's landfill gas-to energy facilities produce enough waste-based, renewable energy to power half a million homes

October 20, 2011, Simi Valley, Calif. - In honor of Energy Awareness Month this October, Waste Management of California is celebrating its employees from the Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center's (SVLRC) landfill-gas-to-energy facility. Turning waste into energy since 2004, the SVLRC is one of more than 129 Waste Management landfill-gas-to-energy facilities in North America that is helping Waste Management to produce enough waste-based, renewable energy to power half a million homes using landfill gas.

Landfill-gas-to-energy facilities are set up to capture methane gas that is a byproduct of decomposed waste. Wells placed throughout the landfill collect this gas and then transport it to a renewable energy facility, where it is used to fuel generators. Waste Management's milestone produces the equivalent of over 2 million tons of coal.

Locally, the SVLRC produces 2.7 megawatts of electricity, equivalent to 2,500 homes, which will offset the use of about 7,874 tons of coal and other greenhouse gas emissions annually. The approved Modernization and Expansion project will allow the SVLRC to increase its green energy production by 150% to the equivalent of 6,250 homes.

When compared to fossil fuels, as well as other renewable sources of energy, including wind and solar, landfill gas has several benefits:

- It's endorsed by the Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#))
- It's not dependent on other environmental factors, like wind or sunlight
- It's reliable during peak energy hours
- It's an economical alternative to other fuel sources, like natural gas.

"As the nation's leader in landfill gas-to-energy, Waste Management has the ability and expertise to turn our local waste stream into a valuable source of energy," said Scott Tignac, district manager for Waste Management of Ventura County. "Landfill gas-to-energy is one of a number of ways the SVLRC is working to extract more value out of our materials than anyone in the industry through processing and conversion of energy from waste."

"Demand for renewable energy is increasing, and we are as focused as ever on creating renewable energy sources from everyday waste," said Paul Pabor, vice president of renewable energy for Waste Management. "As evidenced by the Department of Energy's actions and focus this Energy Awareness Month, it is critical to consider a variety of renewable energy sources to secure California's and America's future. That's why we're looking at every possible way to extract energy from the waste stream."

In addition to landfill gas-to-energy technology, Waste Management extracts the highest value from the materials it manages in a variety of other ways, including making strategic investments in waste-based renewable energy technologies and operating waste-to-energy facilities across the U.S. In total, the company produces more than 9 million megawatts hours of electricity, or enough for more than 1.2 million homes, generating more power than the entire solar energy industry. By 2020, WM expects to power more than 2 million homes with waste-based energy.