



Bill Plunkett (708) 246-8378

Merleanne Rampale  
SWALCO (847) 309-7553

**Waste Management's Recycle America and Solid Waste Agency  
of Lake County, IL Recycle Over 25,000 shoes**

**Grayslake, IL, May 5, 2008** – Waste Management's Recycle America and the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County today reported that the Reuse-A-Shoe program completed Saturday collected 27,000 used shoes, which will be recycled into turf material for athletic fields, running tracks, basketball and tennis courts, and playgrounds.

"This was the fourth year we've coordinated the program for Lake County and we're happy to announce that we collected over 25,000 shoes this year," said Merleanne Rampale, the Reuse-A-Shoe program's coordinator for SWALCO. "Not only did we keep 25,000 shoes out of our depleting landfill space, but participating groups donated over 2,000 shoes to organizations and charities. It is such a fun and innovative program and we're happy to collaborate with so many wonderful and dedicated people from all over the county. Thanks to Waste Management's Recycle America for acting as a final drop-off point for the 2008 project and for assisting in packaging and shipping of the shoes to the Nike facility where they will be ground up and recycled."

"We are absolutely delighted to have partnered with SWALCO to make this year's Reuse-A-Shoe recycling program the most successful yet," said Lisa Benoit, education coordinator for Waste Management's Recycle America facility in Grayslake, IL. "It's clear to us that Lake County residents join Waste Management in its commitment to recycling and the results are clear. Residents can see with their own eyes how the shoes they wear and use for sports and recreation can be beneficially re-used and recycled into material for new sports fields."

The fourth annual Reuse-A-Shoe event culminated with the processing at the Waste Management Recycle America material recovery facility here of athletic shoes of any brand collected by approximately 90 volunteer groups organized by SWALCO. The groups included schools, villages, libraries, community groups, scout troops, corporate offices and others committed to recycling in Lake County.

The program also benefits charitable groups, which receive gently worn shoes recovered in the program and pass them on to people who need them.

Lake County volunteers dropped off the shoes at the Recycle America facility, 30869 N. Route 83, Grayslake, from Thursday through Saturday. There the shoes are loaded into large shipping containers, which will be sent to a facility operated by Nike and turned into “Nike Grind.” The shoes will be ground up and separated into three useful materials, including rubber from the outsole, foam from the mid-sole, and fabric from the upper part of the shoe. Nike then partners with leading surfacing companies to incorporate the recycled material into their products.

### **About Waste Management’s recycling efforts**

Waste Management is North America’s largest recycler of household-generated recyclables, recycling enough newspaper, office paper and cardboard last year to save more than 41 million trees. The Company manages more than 7.6 million tons of commodities through its plants and brokerage operations and its efforts save enough energy to power 874,000 households. By recycling more than 3.5 million tons of newspaper, office paper and cardboard, the Company saved more than 41 million trees. By recycling more than 25,000 tons of aluminum, it saved energy enough energy to run one million TVs for 13 hours a day for a year. Recycling one aluminum can runs a TV for three hours. Its recycling of more than 257,000 tons of plastics saved enough energy to power almost 130,000 houses for one year.

###