

## WASTE MANAGEMENT RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL

Across the U.S. and Canada, Waste Management actively protects thousands of acres of prospering wildlife, native plants and wetlands where visitors may spot an American kestrel and Plymouth red-bellied turtles or perhaps several species of threatened plants such Sartwell's sedge and woodland bluegrass.

This flora and fauna are all inhabitants of 49 sites owned by Waste Management. The company received numerous awards at the Wildlife Habitat Council's 20th annual symposium, *20/20 Vision: Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future*. But the real winners are the animals and plants that thrive on the company's tens of thousands of protected wildlife acreage.

"I'm proud that our company and our employees want to ensure that we pass the planet to the next generation in better shape than we inherited it. It's a lofty goal, but our generation can be the first generation to accomplish it," said David Steiner, CEO of Waste Management. "Because of this, we set environmental stewardship goals that will serve as a platform for our company's sustainable growth until 2020. We have pledged to double our waste-based energy production, triple the volume of recyclable materials processed, invest in cleaner technologies and preserve and restore wildlife habitat across North America."

In the one year since setting that goal, Waste Management is now halfway toward the goal of 100 certified sites.

At the Nov. 17-18 conference in Baltimore, 16 Waste Management sites received wildlife habitat certification and 14 more were recertified. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

Steiner received the first ever prestigious Conservation Education and Outreach -- C.E.O. -- Award on behalf of Waste Management from the Wildlife Habitat Council. The William W. Howard C.E.O. Award, named in honor of the late president of WHC, is the organization's most prestigious award, and recognizes a corporate member which has a history of striving for excellence in conservation, education and outreach.

Different than other WHC recognition levels, this award honors not a single site, but rather an entire organization for its combined efforts in providing educational experiences, access to quality education opportunities and the opportunity to experience personal contact with the natural world to its employees and the surrounding community.

"The C.E.O. Award recognizes the exemplary effort of a corporation which demonstrates that one of the best ways to ensure long-term sustainability of conservation programs is to have

strong engagement on the human level,” said Robert Johnson, WHC’s President. “WHC’s conservation education programs like Corporate Lands for Learning and Conservation Education Sites put a human face on those noble efforts, linking them to the local community and to the region.”

Steiner credits the combination of Waste Management employees and WHC staff for ensuring that the company’s projects qualify for the stringent certification guidelines.

“This is something that I am proud of because not just any site can receive this certification – wildlife management practices must be go beyond what is required, involve the community and be sustainable over time,” Steiner said. “The Wildlife Habitat Council is key to helping us meet our wildlife management goal. We have a goal of 100 sites certified by 2020, and we are now halfway there thanks to the dedication of Waste Management employees.”

Two sites received special recognition at the conference. Also, two other sites were nominated for special recognition: High Acres Landfill was nominated for the Corporate Habitat of the Year award and Wheelabrator Saugus was nominated for the Corporate Lands for Learning Rookie of the Year award.

Wheelabrator Saugus in Boston, Mass., received the Pollinator Protection Award from the Wildlife Habitat Council and North American Pollinator Protection Campaign. The recognition is offered for certified WHC sites that implement specific land management practices to promote pollinator populations.

Alliance Landfill in Taylor, Penn., received the Corporate Lands for Learning of the Year award, which recognizes a site for outstanding environmental education, stewardship and voluntary employee efforts. The Alliance Landfill sets aside over 450 of its nearly 800 acres for wildlife habitat protection and improvement, including its Community Landscape Project, development of its Duryea Wetlands property, the operation of a bird nest box program on the landfill site, and its Camp Kestrel Habitat Workshop environmental education programs that have provided more than 2,300 hours of hands-on learning to local students since 2004.

Through partnerships with the [Wildlife Habitat Council](#) and with the help of WM employees and local community organizations, WM has developed habitat management programs on company sites. WHC's Wildlife at Work Certification program focuses on sustainable wildlife management, and employee and community involvement. WHC's Corporate Lands for Learning program fosters in learners, both adults and children, a clear understanding of the interdependence of ecology, economics, social structures and political process in both urban and rural areas.

### ***About Waste Management***

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](http://www.wm.com) or [www.thinkgreen.com](http://www.thinkgreen.com).

***About Wildlife Habitat Council***

Celebrating 20 years in conservation, the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. More than 2.4 million acres in 46 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and 16 other countries are managed for wildlife through WHC-assisted projects. To learn more, visit [www.wildlifehc.org](http://www.wildlifehc.org).