

Waste Management's El Sobrante Landfill & Wildlife Preserve recognized for its wildlife habitat program

Local facility is one of 112 across North America contributing to the company's sustainability efforts by protecting native plants and animals

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIF.— Dec. 2, 2013 — Waste Management's El Sobrante Landfill and Wildlife Preserve was honored at the Wildlife Habitat Council's 25th Annual Symposium for its achievements in protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat. The facility earned recertification of its Corporate Lands for Learning program, which was designed by the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) to foster in both adults and children a clear understanding of the interdependence of ecology, economics and social structures.

The local effort is part of a national Waste Management program that protects animal and plant species on more than 27,000 acres across North America, representing an important contribution to the company's goal of 100 certifications by 2020.

"The 43 Waste Management wildlife programs being recognized this year set the pace for the corporate conservation community," said Margaret O'Gorman, president of the Wildlife Habitat Council. "Waste Management's leadership in this field is underscored by the fact that they have more than 100 certified programs, meeting a goal established at the highest levels within the company and achieved by a broad coalition of employees and community volunteers."

A variety of educational opportunities for students, scouts and other community members are offered through the El Sobrante Landfill and Wildlife Preserve's Corporate Lands for Learning (CLL) program. Students from schools throughout and beyond Riverside County visit the site for tours about wildlife, landfill operations and the connections between them. During the tour, students visit several learning stations, including a Wildlife Preserve station and a Landfill Gas-to-Energy station. Other youth groups engage in burrowing owl and bat conservation and open space enhancement.

In addition, the El Sobrante Landfill and Wildlife Preserve holds annual Earth Day activities. This year, the landfill offered a nature "hike" to members of Trilogy, a local retirement community, during which participants were driven through the Wildlife Preserve and presented with information on habitat protection, current environmental issues, plant and animal species and basic biology. El Sobrante also offers a Summer Day Camp to children ages six to 15 where groups explore the landfill's green technology, learn eco-friendly behaviors, play recycling games, build bird feeders and go on an "expedition."

To keep its partners and the public informed of the numerous projects and programs at the site, the team established a campaign that utilizes multiple social media outlets to disseminate information on a near-daily basis; this effort is expected to lead to future partnerships and increased awareness of the area's wildlife habitat.



“Waste Management began working with WHC because our employees understand that biodiversity and preservation of wildlife are important to the environment and sustainability,” said Waste Management President and CEO David Steiner. “Beyond helping to provide quality habitat for plants and animals, we believe these efforts are helping to create a more sustainable future for everyone.”

Waste Management has been working with WHC since 2000. In 2008, the company was the first recipient of the organization’s William W. Howard CEO Award, recognizing the company’s efforts in conservation, education and outreach efforts. This year, WM won WHC’s Conservation Education Award, which recognizes corporate members with a history of striving for excellence in conservation education and outreach. Unlike other recognition levels, this award honors an entire organization for 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.

To read more about El Sobrante’s program, please visit <http://www.wm.com/wm/community/whc/index.asp>

About WHC Certifications

As of 2013, there are 668 certified Wildlife at Work and 161 certified Corporate Lands for Learning programs in 46 states and 12 countries. 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.

About Waste Management

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management environmental services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company’s customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. To learn more about the company visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com.

About the Wildlife Habitat Council

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. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 43 states, the District of Columbia and nine other countries. To learn more, visit www.wildlifehc.org.

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