

# Waste Management first company to earn more than 100 Wildlife Habitat Council certifications

**BALTIMORE, Md. - November 15, 2011** - At its 23rd Annual Symposium, *People, Partnerships and Pathways*, the [Wildlife Habitat Council](#) (WHC) announced that [Waste Management](#) (NYSE: WM) is the only company to achieve greater than 100 WHC certifications. WHC presented the company with nine new certifications for Wildlife at WorkSM programs, one new certification for Corporate Lands for LearningSM (CLL) and seven CLL re-certifications. This brings the company-wide total to 128 certified programs for the company at 110 sites.

Two Waste Management locations were also nominees for awards presented at the symposium, including Rookie of the Year, Corporate Habitat of the Year and Wings over Wetlands. Rookie of the Year and Corporate Habitat of the Year award nominees represent the top certified or recertified programs this year.

“The sheer number of Waste Management programs certified by WHC highlights the company’s role as a leader in environmental stewardship,” said WHC President Robert Johnson. “WHC congratulates Waste Management for its commitment to wildlife habitat enhancement, community outreach, and conservation education.”

While the grassroots efforts of employee volunteers form the basis of Waste Management’s wildlife programs, these programs involve a variety of community partners. Environmental experts, scouts, elementary and high schools, community volunteers and even other companies have joined the local Waste Management teams to improve wildlife habitat and provide outdoor educational opportunities.

“Our partnership with WHC has helped us serve our communities at an entirely different level than we were able to do before. By leveraging programs like Wildlife at Work and Corporate Lands for Learning, we’ve been able to work side by side with our neighbors and customers on wildlife enhancement projects and conservation education initiatives,” said Waste Management’s President and CEO David Steiner. “Earning each certification has been an invaluable experience for both our employees and the members of our communities. I am proud of all their accomplishments.”

This year’s certifications also helped Waste Management meet and exceed two of its corporate-wide sustainability goals set for 2020. In 2007, Waste Management pledged to preserve and restore 25,000 acres of wildlife habitat across North America. The company achieved this in 2010 and now protects more than 26,000 acres. Waste Management also committed to have at least 100 of its facilities with WHC certified programs. With the addition of this year’s certifications, the company has surpassed this goal.

“At Waste Management our conservation goals are aggressive but achievable. Look at what we’ve accomplished in just four years,” said Steiner. “The success of our WHC programs has driven us to work harder on developing long-term suitability and conservation programs that provide a role of everyone in the community to have with one goal in mind - making the planet a better place for future generations to enjoy.”

Waste Management has been working closely 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.

To read more about each program, please visit <http://www.wm.com/wm/community/whc/index>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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### **About Wildlife Habitat Council Certifications**

Since 1990, WHC has certified 657 Wildlife at WorkSM programs, which help to preserve land as wildlife habitat by ensuring the availability of food, water, cover and space suitable to animals' needs. It has also certified 138 Corporate Lands for LearningSM (CLL) programs, which promote the use of certified company lands for hands-on environmental education by school and community groups. The certification process recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and conservation 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 Wildlife Habitat Council Certifications**

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](http://www.wildlifehc.org).

### **About Waste Management**

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management 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, visit [www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com) or [www.thinkgreen.com](http://www.thinkgreen.com).

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