

News from the Atascocita Recycling and Disposal Facility

Manager's report



Gordon Spradley,
District Manager,
Atascocita Recycling
and Disposal Facility

While we recognize that it may not last, we're pretty grateful for the rainfall we've been receiving recently. We work to maintain a variety of grasses on our slopes to reduce the potential for erosion, and right now I'd say we have the best growth I've ever seen here. Our winter rye is growing well, and we'll be reseeding with millet and Bermuda grass to maintain the cover as the weather warms. How-

ever, the recent and ongoing drought conditions remain very fresh in our memory, and so we're well-prepared to manage our water usage if the situation worsens.

We're in the midst of another routine expansion of our landfill gas collection system, which removes the gas from the landfill and channels it to our gas-to-energy plant, where we generate electricity to feed the power grid. We're presently adding 15 new wells, bringing our total to 184 wells.

Making progress on organics

Did you know that as much as 30 percent of the waste stream across the U.S. can be counted as organic waste? In fact, the waste from grocery stores and restaurants can run as high as 60 percent organic waste.

Waste Management sees a big opportunity for waste reduction and resource recovery in this area, and the company has established a number of strategic partnerships with innovators in this field who are improving the process and its efficiency. In addition to reducing the incoming load on landfills and offering better solutions to customers, these partners are creating products and services like energy, fertilizer, mulch and raw materials for manufacturing bio-based renewable fuels and chemicals.

Altogether, Waste Management operates more than 35 organic processing facilities across North America, and it continues to form partnerships that specialize in marketing the materials.

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Community Relations Manager: Lisa Doughty

E-mail: LDoughty@wm.com

Phone: 713-647-5546

In our habitat area, we're busy making plans for the upcoming season:

- We're working with the Galveston Bay Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife to produce an updated list of invasive plants so we can target them more efficiently.
- We're working with a local Wildlife Habitat Council expert to investigate the opportunity to attract and support hummingbirds here.
- The Christmas trees we recycled from our neighbors have already been turned into mulch, which is ready for an upcoming habitat workday.

This is also a busy time for us in the community. Waste Management continues to be a major player in a number of high-profile events and organizations that help to keep this a great place to live, including the Humble Rodeo & BBQ Cook-Off, the Education Foundation of Harris County's All-Earth EcoBot Challenge, and Earth Day Houston.

We're proud of the work we do, and we're also grateful to be able to support the community that provides not only our workplace, but our home as well.

"We feel quite fortunate here to be part of a strong organization with the capital, resources and determination to create more sustainable processes," says the landfill's District Manager Gordon Spradley. "As a result of economic, environmental and technological factors, the whole area



At numerous sites around the country, Waste Management is working to create more sustainable approaches to the management of organic wastes.

of managing organic waste is evolving rapidly. While we're taking small steps here at the landfill—like recycling lumber, Christmas trees and other organic materials—it's nice to know that Waste Management is pushing the envelope to reduce the amount of waste going into landfills and to help us all use precious natural resources more wisely."

Please call us any time to arrange for a landfill tour, or if you have any questions about operations.

Composting at home

Waste pros may call it “organics management,” but home gardeners are likely to know it as composting.



According to TCEQ, mulching and composting can save money, time and effort while

helping conserve water resources and reduce water pollution. For more information, visit www.tceq.texas.gov/p2/nav/composting.html.

News from the Atascocita Recycling and Disposal Facility

Spring 2013

EARTH DAY IS COMING!

Houston’s premier celebration of our planet is happening again at Discovery Green this year, on Sunday, April 14, from 11 am to 5 pm. For the second year in a row, Waste Management is one of the event’s major presenting partners, and will be helping Air Alliance Houston to focus on the merits of mindful, sustainable living while educating and encouraging Houstonians to do their part to preserve, conserve and enhance our city and the earth.



Photo courtesy of Air Alliance Houston

Gittin’ along

For the eleventh year, Waste Management played a huge role in the success of the Humble Rodeo & BBQ Cook-Off. The 2013 edition broke attendance records, and raised \$216,000 for local education (the event benefits the Humble ISD Education Foundation)—an 88 percent increase year-over-year.

According to Waste Management’s Lisa Doughty, who has served as the event’s Executive Director for the last three years, “Altogether WM employees contributed more than 1,000 volunteer hours to the event this year, and that’s in addition to the financial and in-kind support provided by the company. The unrestricted funds that come from this event support innovative programs that increase learning opportunities for students at all 42 schools in Humble ISD.”

