

For Further Information: Waste Management, Inc. Media: George Wheatley 479.361.4255 Web site: http://www.wm.com

## WASTE MANAGEMENT TO DEDICATES ARKANSAS' FIRST LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY PLANT AND ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH AUDUBON ARKANSAS

**LITTLE ROCK -** August 12, 2008 - Arkansas Senior Senator Blanche Lincoln, Congressman Vic Snyder and Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe joined Waste Management executives today to formally dedicate the Two Pine Landfill, Arkansas' first and only landfill gas-to-energy plant.

The Two Pine Landfill gas-to-energy plant is a 4.8-megawatt facility, providing power for approximately 4,500 homes in North Little Rock. Consisting of six large engines, it was constructed in 2006, and recently achieved full generation. The engines are powered by methane gas, which forms in the landfill as a result of the decomposition of waste.

"We are very pleased to have these distinguished community and state leaders here today to join us in celebrating our environmental stewardship initiatives at the Two Pine Landfill," said David Myhan, vice president and general manager Waste Management Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas.

"Our nation has not been an innovator in the area of renewable energy, and there have been some missed moments," said Rep. Vic Snyder. "But we can do better. And companies like Waste Management are helping us develop energy solutions by helping us solve a problem we have been grappling with for a while: what do we do with the leftovers?"

Approximately two years ago, Waste Management and Audubon Arkansas began discussions regarding the development of a wildlife management plan for the Two Pine Landfill. This first-of-its-kind program between Waste Management and Audubon Arkansas has the potential to expand to other Waste Management landfills.

The partnership, which will designate 300 acres of the 500-acre landfill site for wildlife habitat conservation and rehabilitation, is a "one-of-a-kind conservation project," said Ken Smith, director of Audubon Arkansas.

"What a wonderful opportunity to be here today, I'm so proud of this innovative partnership between Waste Management and Audubon," said Sen. Blanche Lincoln. "We are preserving natural resources but doing it in a way that doesn't have to hamper business or industry. This partnership shows us how we can fund new energy resources in order to decrease our dependence on foreign oil."

This past April, Waste Management received the state's approval to expand the Two Pine Landfill. In the coming years, Waste Management plans to build an additional landfill gas-to-energy plant in the expanded landfill area.

These two projects are part of the company's environmental sustainability initiative. Waste Management has committed to the following actions by 2020: doubling its wastebased energy generation from the equivalent of generating enough energy for one million to two million homes; quadrupling the number of its sites certified by the Wildlife Habitat Council to 100, as well as set aside 25,000 acres for conservation, nearly tripling the amount of recyclables it manages to 20 million tons; and reducing its vehicle fleet emissions by 15 percent and increasing fuel efficiency by 15 percent.

"We are talking about converting waste to energy, which is the ultimate renewable resource because we aren't going to run out of waste anytime soon," said Gov. Mike Beebe. "Waste Management is to be congratulated, and today is a testament to the people of Arkansas who have determined that we can be a model and can lead the nation in advancements in sustainable energy."

## **About Waste Management**

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Subsidiaries provide collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. A leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States, customers include residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal customers throughout North America. For more information, visit www.wm.com or www.thinkgreen.com

###