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## **WASTE MANAGEMENT AWARDS NEW SOLAR POWERED TRASH COMPACTOR TO CITY OF SOLON, OHIO**

*Solar-powered trash receptacle to use renewable energy to demonstrate how it can save money and turn public spaces into clean eco-friendly zones*

**LOS ANGELES, CA – September 25, 2009** – Waste Management today awarded a one-year demonstration model of its new solar powered trash compactor to the City of Solon, Ohio at the Solid Waste Management Association of America conference.

“We know busy intersections, public parks, city streets, sporting events and other public spaces can be magnets for trash,” said Dave Aardsma, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Waste Management. “Ordinary trash barrels can easily overflow and become eyesores. The Waste Management solar powered trash compactor can provide a number of solutions in those uses, by reducing waste collection frequency, lowering costs for our customers and ensuring a greener, cleaner environment.”

WM Solar Powered Trash Compactors are completely self-powered, using built-in solar panels to compact trash. About the same size as a standard 35-gallon trash barrel, each compactor provides five times the capacity of a traditional trash receptacle. When the unit reaches capacity, sensors trigger an internal compactor that flattens the contents, converting 180 gallons of waste into easy-to-collect bags. A wireless system then signals that the unit is ready to be picked up. This cuts the need for trash pickup by up to 80 percent, which reduces collection costs, fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions. The compactors also include receptacles for collecting plastic bottles, newspapers, glass and other recyclables.

Waste Management has been targeting municipal governments and high-traffic facilities interested in reducing the need for trash collection and keeping public spaces clean and litter free. Waste Management has installed 15 units at Patriot Place, a 1.3-million-square-foot retail, dining and event destination adjacent to Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

Together with Waste Management’s other sustainability goals, Waste Management is investing in new technologies to better manage waste, including in public spaces.

**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).

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