

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.**

### **AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER**

#### **PURPOSE**

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors to oversee the accounting and financial reporting processes of the Company and audits of the financial statements of the Company. The Audit Committee shall assist the Board in monitoring (1) the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, (2) the compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements, (3) the independent auditors' qualifications, performance and independence, and (4) the performance of the Company's internal audit function. The Audit Committee shall prepare the report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement. The Audit Committee shall have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Board with respect to the specific responsibilities and authority assigned to the Audit Committee in this Charter or hereafter assigned to the Audit Committee by the Board of Directors, except as may be otherwise provided by law, and shall have all the power and authority required under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the independent auditors (including resolution of disagreements between management and such auditors regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company. The independent auditors shall report directly to the Audit Committee. In fulfilling that responsibility, the Audit Committee has the ultimate authority and responsibility to select, evaluate, and, where appropriate, replace the independent auditors. The Audit Committee shall preapprove all audit, review or attest engagements and permissible non-audit services, including the fees and terms thereof, to be performed by the independent auditors, subject to, and in compliance with, the *de minimis* exception for non-audit services described in Section 10A(i)(1)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the applicable rules and regulations of the Commission. The Audit Committee is also expected to obtain and review information supporting the qualifications of the audit engagement team to conduct the audit engagement in accordance with the Standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board ("PCAOB Standards").

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE**

The Audit Committee shall consist of not less than three members of the Board of Directors designated by the Board of Directors after receiving the recommendations of the Nominating and Governance Committee. Any members of the Audit Committee may be replaced by the Board of Directors. A member of the Audit Committee shall not, other than in his or her capacity as a director, committee member,

committee chair or non-executive Chairman of the Board, accept directly or indirectly any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from the Company or any of its subsidiaries. The Board of Directors shall also designate a chairman of the Audit Committee based on the recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee, who shall be responsible for preparing the agenda in conjunction with management, presiding over meetings and coordination of reporting to the Board. The members of the Audit Committee shall be composed exclusively of persons who the Board of Directors determines meet the independence, expertise, experience and financial literacy requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, Section 10A(m)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations of the Commission (collectively, the “Applicable Rules and Regulations”). At least one member of the Audit Committee shall be a person who the Board of Directors determines is an “audit committee financial expert” as defined by Item 401(h)(2) of Regulation S-K promulgated by the Commission. Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, no member of the Audit Committee shall simultaneously serve on the audit committees of more than two other public companies.

The Audit Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees consisting of one or more members when appropriate, including the authority to grant preapprovals of audit and permissible non-audit services. The Audit Committee also may delegate such preapproval authority to any of its members. Any decisions of such subcommittees or members to grant preapprovals shall be reported to the full Audit Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

The Audit Committee shall, as required or to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate:

### Financial Statement and Disclosure Matters

1. Review and discuss the annual audited financial statements, as well as disclosures made in management’s discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations, with management and the independent auditors. The review and discussion shall include major issues and judgments (i) regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations or (ii) otherwise made in connection with the preparation of the Company’s financial statements, including any significant changes in the selection or application of accounting principles, any major issues concerning the adequacy of the Company’s internal controls, any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies and the adequacy of disclosures about changes in internal control over financial reporting.
2. Recommend to the Board of Directors whether the Company’s annual audited financial statements and accompanying notes should be

accepted, as prepared by management, for inclusion in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

3. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditors an analysis prepared by management and the independent auditors of significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative methods of generally accepted accounting principles on the financial statements.

4. Review and discuss with management and the independent auditors the Company's quarterly financial statements, as well as disclosures made in management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations, prior to the filing of its Form 10-Q, including any matters provided in Statement on Auditing Standards No. 100 arising in connection with the Company's quarterly financial statements.

5. Review and discuss with management (including the senior internal audit executive) and the independent auditors the Company's internal controls report and the independent auditors' attestation of the report prior to the filing of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K.

6. Review and discuss reports from the independent auditors on:

a. All critical accounting policies and practices to be used.

b. All alternative treatments of financial information within generally accepted accounting principles that have been discussed with management, including (1) ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments and (2) the treatment preferred by the independent auditors.

c. Other material written communications between the independent auditors and management.

7. Review with management the Company's earnings press releases, with particular emphasis on the use of any "non-GAAP financial measures," as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies. Such discussion may be done generally (covering, for example, the types of information to be disclosed and the type of presentation to be made).

8. Review with management and the independent auditors the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives as well as off-balance sheet structures on the Company's financial statements.

9. Meet periodically with management to review the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including a review of the adequacy of reserves.
10. Periodically discuss and review the Company's approach to risk assessment and risk management.
11. Review major changes to the Company's auditing and accounting principles and practices as suggested by the independent auditors, internal auditors or management.
12. Review such other matters with the independent auditors as are required by PCAOB Standards or the Applicable Rules and Regulations.
13. Review the disclosures, if any, that the Company's chief executive officer and chief financial officer make to the Audit Committee and the independent auditors in connection with the certification process for the Company's Reports on Form 10-K and Form 10-Q concerning any significant deficiencies or weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting and any fraud that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal control over financial reporting.
14. Discuss with the independent auditors any material changes to the Company's accounting principles and any matters required to be communicated by the independent auditors by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 relating to the conduct of the audit (including the independent auditors' judgments about the quality of the Company's accounting principles and estimates).

#### Oversight of the Company's Relationship with the Independent Auditors

15. Evaluate on an annual basis the independent auditors' qualifications, performance and independence, and, if necessary, replace the independent auditors.
16. Approve all services, including non-audit engagements, to be provided by the independent auditors prior to the engagement, subject to, and in compliance with, the *de minimis* exception for non-audit services described in Section 10A(i)(1)(B) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; provided that any such non-audit services must be of a type permitted to be provided by the independent auditors under the Applicable Rules and Regulations.

17. Determine the compensation paid to the independent auditors for both audit and non-audit related services.
18. Confirm the regular rotation of the audit partners as required by law. Consider whether there should be regular rotation of the independent auditing firm.
19. Establish clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the independent auditors in accordance with the Applicable Rules and Regulations and annually review the profile of all former employees of the independent auditors hired during the last fiscal year.
20. Review with the independent auditors any communication or consultation between the Company's audit team and the independent auditors' national office respecting auditing or accounting issues presented by the engagement.
21. Review the independence of the independent auditors, giving consideration to the range of audit and non-audit services performed by them. In this connection, the Audit Committee shall, at least annually, obtain and review a formal written statement by the independent auditors describing all relationships with the Company. To evaluate the independence of the independent auditors, the Audit Committee shall review the statement; conduct an active discussion with the independent auditors with respect to any disclosed relationships or services that may affect the objectivity and independence of the auditors; and take any other appropriate action in response to the independent auditors' statement or other communications to satisfy itself of the independence of the independent auditors and compliance with the Applicable Rules and Regulations. The Audit Committee's conclusions with respect to independence shall be reported to the full Board of Directors.
22. Review and evaluate the lead partner of the independent auditor team.
23. Obtain and review a report by the independent auditors, at least annually, describing the firm's internal quality-control procedures; any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review of the firm or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the preceding five years respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm and any steps taken to deal with any such issues and all relationships between the independent auditors and the Company; and report conclusions to the Board.

24. Meet with the independent auditors and the senior internal auditing executive prior to the annual audit to review and approve the planning, scope, adequacy, and staffing of the annual audit.

25. Review with the independent auditors any problems or difficulties the auditors may have encountered and any management letter provided by the independent auditors and the Company's response to that letter. Such review should include:

- a. Any difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, including any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to required information.
- b. The level of satisfaction by the independent auditors that they have had timely access to all relevant data and information.
- c. Any changes required in the planned scope of the audit.

#### Oversight of the Company's Internal Audit Function

26. Review and approve the appointment and replacement of the senior internal auditing executive.

27. Review the significant reports to management prepared by the internal auditing department and management's responses.

28. Review with management and the independent auditors the responsibilities, budget and staffing of the internal auditors and any recommended changes in the planned scope of the internal audit. The internal audit function is intended to provide management and the Audit Committee with ongoing assessments of the Company's risk management processes and system of internal control.

#### Compliance Oversight Responsibilities

29. Obtain from the independent auditors assurance that Section 10A(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 has not been implicated.

30. Obtain reports from management and the Company's senior internal auditing executive that the Company's subsidiaries and foreign affiliated entities are in conformity with applicable legal requirements and the Company's Code of Conduct.

31. Establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous

submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

32. Prepare the report of the Audit Committee required by the rules of the Commission to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.

33. Review with the Company's chief compliance officer and advise the Board with respect to the Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations and with the Company's Code of Conduct, as well as actions taken to maintain an effective compliance program, including developments in compliance law and best practices.

34. Discuss with management and the independent auditors any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies and any published reports that raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or accounting policies.

35. Review with the Company's General Counsel legal matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements, the Company's compliance policies and any material reports or inquiries received from regulators or governmental agencies.

36. Meet at least quarterly with the chief financial officer, the senior internal auditing executive and the independent auditors in separate executive sessions and have such other direct and independent interaction with such persons from time to time as the members of the Audit Committee deem appropriate.

#### General/Administrative Responsibilities

37. Review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Board for approval.

38. Report to the Board, at least annually, all public company audit committee memberships by members of the Audit Committee.

39. Annually review the Committee's performance relative to this Charter and report the evaluation results to the Nominating and Governance Committee and the Board of Directors.

40. Adopt an orientation program for new Audit Committee members. All Audit Committee members are encouraged to attend educational programs to enhance their Audit Committee membership, as they feel appropriate, and the costs of such program will be paid by the Company.

41. Perform any other activities consistent with this Charter, the Company's By-laws, governing law and the Applicable Rules and Regulations, with respect to the financial affairs of the Company, as the Audit Committee deems appropriate, and report such other activities to the Board at their next meeting.
42. Make regular reports to the Board.
43. Regularly approve minutes of Committee meetings.

While the Audit Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the Applicable Rules and Regulations. These are the responsibilities of management and the independent auditors. It is also not the duty of the Audit Committee to conduct investigations, or to assure compliance with laws and regulations and the Company's Code of Conduct.

The Audit Committee shall have the authority to engage outside advisors, including legal, accounting or other consultants to advise the Audit Committee or as it determines necessary to carry out its duties. The Audit Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or independent auditors to attend a meeting of the Audit Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Audit Committee. The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Audit Committee, for payment of compensation to the independent auditors for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing other audit, review or attest services for the Company, compensation to any advisors employed by the Audit Committee, and administrative expenses of the Audit Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

The Audit Committee will meet as often as the members shall determine to be necessary or appropriate but at least four times during each year. In addition, the Audit Committee will make itself available to the independent auditors and the internal auditors of the Company as requested. Reports of meetings of the Audit Committee shall be made to the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting following the Audit Committee meeting, accompanied by any recommendations to the Board of Directors approved by the Audit Committee.