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Did You Know?

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WM of OC's Sunset Environmental Transfer Station Receives Cal/OSHA's Highest Safety Certification

Orange County's Sunset Environmental Transfer Station Facility is the first transfer station in the nation to receive Cal/OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star Certification which is the highest safety achievement offered by Cal/OSHA. Not only is it the first transfer station in the United States to be recognized as a Cal/VPP Star site it is the second facility in the municipal solid waste industry to achieve this certification, joining Waste Management's VPP Star Certified hauling district in Carlsbad, California.



The Star Certification is the result of a voluntary invitation for site visits and consultation by the state's work safety division, culminating in a multi-day audit in April. WMOC first applied for consideration for VPP in July of 2009 and spent the time between the application submission and the Cal/OSHA official VPP review conducting site improvements, safety program reviews and encouraging employee participation to meet the goals of the VPP program.

"Waste Management's achievement of the prestigious Cal/OSHA VPP Star Certification is an accomplishment that very few companies in California have attained. This is a testament to their dedication to employee safety," said Iraj Pourmehraban, director of Cal/OSHA VPP Consultation Service. "All Waste Management sites in Orange County have been awarded our SHARP certification, and we are excited to see the first of these sites successfully take the next step to achieve VPP."

WMOC's Sunset Environmental Transfer Station has 40 employees who perform various jobs including collection drivers, maintenance technicians, equipment operators and recycling processing line sorters, in addition to office personnel. The facility provides services to the cities of Costa Mesa, Irvine, La Habra, Laguna Beach, Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Santa Ana, and portions of unincorporated Orange County, and serves the public throughout the region.

All Waste Management employees receive safety training appropriate for their positions within the company - whether serving as a driver of a collection vehicle, maintenance technician or within the office - and participate in regular safety refresher courses or additional trainings as needed. WMOC also has employee safety committees and a "Top Gun Safety Squadron" made up of employees with the site's best safety records that provide recommendations for safety improvements, root cause analyses of incidents and share best practices.



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Waste Management: Your Community partner

April recyclables benefit Friends of the Mission Viejo library

Recyclables collected in Mission Viejo during the month of April will help stock the Mission Viejo Library's shelves with new children's books, thanks to a program Waste Management of Orange County launches each spring.

Waste Management donates \$5 for every ton of residential curbside recycled material collected in April to the Friends of the Mission Viejo Library, which uses the funding to buy new children's books for the library's collection. Last year, the month-long campaign netted \$4,211 for the Friends of the Library. Since the beginning of the program in 2001, Waste Management and Mission Viejo residents have raised more than \$45,000.

Waste Management partners with police to fight crime and watch neighborhoods

Law enforcement in Orange County is getting some extra help in keeping the streets safe. On February 11, trash and recycling truck drivers with Waste Management of Orange County were trained by the Orange County law enforcement departments to watch out for suspicious activity and possible emergencies while out on their daily routes.

"This is one way for the Orange County Sheriff's Department to utilize resources that are available in our community," said Lieutenant Mike Gavin, Chief of Mission Viejo Police Services. "Everyone has a stake in the community, whether they are a resident or conducting business in the city. The employees of Waste Management will help assist police services in keeping our streets crime free and our community safe."

Representatives from Irvine, Laguna Beach, Lake Forest and Mission Viejo police departments and security professionals including a former FBI agent taught approximately 120 Waste Management drivers to act as an extra set of eyes and ears for police, fire department and emergency services while servicing their customers. The Waste Watch program was also designed to help public safety agencies that have been impacted by budget cuts.

"Since Waste Management drivers are familiar with their routes and are in the same neighborhoods every day, it puts them in the unique position to spot unusual activity and anything out of the ordinary including suspicious trash," said Michelle Clark, community relations of Waste Management of Orange County. "The Waste Watch program opens up the channels of communication with the authorities to help keep them informed and alert of what's happening in their city's streets and alleys."



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Waste Management Teams Up with Goodwill to Expand Recycling/Reuse Capacity

Waste Management of Orange County and Goodwill of Orange County have partnered to ensure that reusable goods will be diverted from landfills and delivered to the Goodwill donation center in Mission Viejo.

Drivers for Waste Management's Bulky Item Pick Up program serving Mission Viejo will identify usable items such as furniture and electronics to go to Goodwill, so that the used goods may be processed and distributed through Goodwill's 20 retail stores, including shopgoodwill.com, the organization's online shopping site.



"By saving items from the landfill and delivering them to Goodwill, we are able to help a great cause, support our community and reduce Orange County's carbon footprint," said David Ross, Director of Municipal Services and Community Relations. "Our partnership with Goodwill would not be possible without each of our staff members who work to create sustainable solutions every day."

Last year Goodwill of Orange County received more than six million pounds of electronics alone through its donation stream. Other goods that are sought-after for retail stores include clothing, furniture, household goods, books and sporting equipment. The flow of merchandise directly impacts Goodwill's ability to provide job training and career services throughout the county.

"Residents and businesses donate hundreds of thousands of items to Goodwill, but often many thousands of usable items may be discarded as waste," said Doug Wooley, Community Development Manager Goodwill of Orange County. "With Waste Management we hope to bring even greater awareness of the importance of recycling and reuse so that together, we can make Orange County a greener place to live while helping to serve even more individuals."

Goodwill has over 30 donation centers conveniently located throughout Orange County including the drop-off centers at its stores. Additionally Goodwill of Orange County is a State Certified e-waste collector. Goodwill regularly holds collection events with cities, churches, schools and businesses throughout Orange County. "Working safely is a key component of Waste Management's culture," Bill Bixler, District Manager for Orange County said. "With safety as our priority, we invite agencies like Cal/OSHA in to evaluate our programs and practices, as well as the condition of our facility, to make sure we're providing a safe environment for our employees and the community. We're very proud of our employees for all the hard work they've done to enhance safety in the workplace, and we're excited that Cal/OSHA has recognized us for these efforts."



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Waste Management Named One of the World's Most Ethical Companies

For third year in a row, Waste Management has been recognized by the Ethisphere Institute as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies. The company outperformed a field of thousands of entries based on its commitment to environmental sustainability and the performance of its employees in upholding ethical business practices that benefit the company, its partners and the communities it serves across North America.

"We have worked long and hard to build a corporate culture that values ethics, employee engagement and sustainability, and we are especially honored to receive this recognition," said CEO David Steiner. "As the largest company in our industry, we have a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to make sure our operations are safe, ethical and environmentally beneficial. Our employees and our corporate leadership are clearly doing what's right to be recognized for our ethical behavior for the third year in a row, and we need the support of each and every employee to keep that hard-earned reputation."

Ethisphere is a research-based think tank dedicated to creating and advancing best practices in business ethics, corporate social responsibility, anti-corruption and sustainability. This is the fourth year it has published the World's Most Ethical (WME) rankings. The institute makes its selections by conducting in-depth research and reviewing thousands of nominations from companies in more than 100 countries and 36 industries. The results will appear in the Q1 issue of Ethisphere Magazine.

"Waste Management's promotion of a sound ethical environment shines within its industry and shows a clear understanding that operating under the highest standards for business behavior is intimately linked to performance and profitability," said Alex Brigham, executive director of the Ethisphere Institute. "This year's World's Most Ethical Companies award was more competitive than ever, because companies realize that making ethics a priority is critical amidst a tough economic environment."

WME ranking is based on codes of ethics, litigation and regulatory infraction histories; evaluating a company's investment in innovation and sustainable business practices; looking at activities designed to improve corporate citizenship; and studying nominations from senior executives, industry peers, suppliers and customers. A complete list of the 2010 World's Most Ethical Companies is available at <http://ethisphere.com/wme-2010>.

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