

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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**WM's Local Operations Recognized for Environmental Work
Habitat, Education and Cleanup Work Cited by Local, International Organizations**

Taylor, Pa., Nov. 19, 2009 – Waste Management's operations in Northeast Pennsylvania – Alliance Landfill in Taylor, Apex Waste Services in Dunmore and the Beach Lake Transfer Station in Wayne County – have been recognized by the Northeast Pennsylvania Environmental Partners and the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) for projects that have improved wildlife habitat, provided environmental education programs for more than 2,000 children, and for their support of roadside and watershed cleanup projects.

Alliance, Apex and Beach Lake received a 2009 Environmental Partnership Award at the 19th Annual Evening for Northeastern Pennsylvania Environment held in Wilkes-Barre and coordinated by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council. Alliance received WHC Wildlife at Work recertification at the group's annual symposium earlier this month in Baltimore.

Established in 1990, the Environmental Partnership Award recognizes individuals and organizations that build partnerships to achieve environmental progress. The Northeastern Pennsylvania Environmental Partners is a coalition of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC), Northeast Regional Office, the Northeast Pennsylvania Alliance, the state Departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Natural Resources, PPL Corp., Procter & Gamble Paper Products Corp., and Wilkes University. The award recognizes Alliance's habitat and environmental education programs and the support Alliance, Apex and Beach Lake provide each year to groups that marshal volunteer support to clear debris from roadsides, waterways and undeveloped areas across Northeastern Pennsylvania.

"We've donated services that have helped an army of volunteers remove debris from the Susquehanna, Delaware, Lehigh and Lackawanna rivers, from along creeks and roadsides and at least one local state park," said John Hambrose, Waste Management's local spokesman. "We take seriously our commitment to being a good neighbor and are proud to help improve the environment we live in."

Organizations and programs assisted by Waste Management include the On and Under the Delaware River Cleanup in Dingmans Ferry, the Great PA Cleanup and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Up Our American Lands and Streams (COALS) program, the Lackawanna River Corridor Association and the Lackawanna County Conservation District, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Rotary Club of Hawley, Hicks Creek Watershed Association, the Pocono Environmental Education Center, and cleanups organized by PEC.

The award also recognizes the landfill's Camp Kestrel Habitat Workshop series that has provided more than 6,000 environmental education hours since its introduction in 2004. Camp Kestrel includes a winter camp with live-animal and habitat presentations, birdhouse building, and a low-litter lunch; a summer camp with a landfill hike, wildlife workshop, and presentation by butterfly expert Rick Mikula; and the landfill's new "wildflower walk" presented in September for high school students collecting wildflowers and leaves for biology projects.

WHC has recertified work Alliance's staff has done on 450 acres of landfill property to improve wildlife habitat. This work includes the planting and monitoring of the landfill's Community Landscape Project, development of the landfill's Duryea Wetlands property, and the installation and monitoring of numerous birdhouses on the landfill. The Council first certified the landfill's wildlife habitat work in 2004.

In its recertification application, Alliance reported identifying 32 new bird species since 2006, including the scarlet tanager, wood thrush, red-shouldered hawk, osprey, indigo bunting, eastern meadowlark and bobolink. Alliance has identified 91 resident and migratory bird species since 2004. This year's application included first-time inventories of mammal species identified at the site, 21; amphibians, nine; and reptiles, six.

Alliance is one of 73 Waste Management properties in the U.S. and Canada that have received WHC Wildlife at Work certification. The company has committed more than 24,000 acres to wildlife habitat at these sites.

Additional information about Alliance's habitat work and all of Waste Management's environmental activities in Northeast Pennsylvania is available by contacting the landfill at 570-562-1600 ext. 244.