



## **Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**

*Mayor,*

Baltimore City

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***Better Schools. Safer Streets. Stronger Neighborhoods.***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Mayor Rawlings-Blake Announced Long-Term Waste Disposal Contract***

**BALTIMORE, MD. (July 20, 2011)** – Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake announced today the approval of long term waste disposal contracts with the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority and Wheelabrator (a subsidiary of Waste Management, and the only operating Waste to Energy facility in Baltimore.) These contracts will continue complimentary operational relationships resulting in waste diversion, revenue, recycled metals, reduced greenhouse gasses and energy savings for the City of Baltimore.

“This contractual partnership with Wheelabrator through the Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority will further the City’s sustainability goals promoting a healthier environment and effective long-term management of the City’s solid waste,” said Mayor Rawlings-Blake. “We are making green choices that are good business choices providing operational efficiencies, cost savings, and even generating revenue.”

The City will realize revenue in the form of tipping fees (for ash delivered to the City’s landfill), property taxes, a site lease, host fees and a solid waste surcharge. The revenues are estimated at \$112 million over the 10 year term of the contracts.

Public Works Bureau of Solid Waste will deliver approximately 200,000 tons annually to the Wheelabrator facility at very favorable tipping rates. At the facility solid waste is converted into renewable energy. Diverting the City’s solid waste to Wheelabrator complements recycling and saves valuable landfill space.

“The Wheelabrator contract will further the important mandates of the City’s 10 year solid waste management plan, insuring that Baltimore can continue to independently manage its waste disposal needs,” added Alfred Foxx, Director of the Department of Public Works.

And the energy savings are significant as well. Director of General Services, Ted Atwood, working with Public Works, negotiated the energy component of the contract. “In addition to important waste management goals, the City will also be able to purchase energy at a very favorable price with an estimated cost savings of \$1.8 million annually over the first five years alone,” said Mr. Atwood.

The new contracts go into effect January 2012.

“Our partnership with the City of Baltimore and Northeast Maryland Waste Disposal Authority has always been one based on innovation. Over 25 years ago, Wheelabrator began converting the City’s municipal solid waste (MSW) into renewable energy and steam used to power Baltimore’s downtown energy needs,” said Mark A. Weidman, president of Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. “Today Baltimore is once again redefining the way it manages MSW. The new contract allows Baltimore to safely dispose of its MSW while directly buying back the 10 megawatts of renewable energy produced from its own MSW. This builds on the City’s long-term environmental sustainability goals, and is also a great example of how a community can benefit from alternative waste disposal solutions. We thank the City, the Authority and the community for their continued vote of confidence”

About Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.:

A wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. is a leader in the safe and environmentally sound conversion of MSW and other renewable waste fuels into clean energy. Wheelabrator’s 17 waste-to-energy facilities provide safe waste disposal for towns and cities across the U.S. Wheelabrator also operates five independent power plants designed to generate electricity using an assortment of fuels, including waste wood, tires, waste coal, and natural gas. In addition to producing electricity, some of these facilities also produce steam sold to nearby government and commercial establishments. Wheelabrator’s 22 facilities have a combined electric generating capacity of 896 megawatts, enough energy to power more than 985,000 homes. To learn more, visit [www.wheelabratortechologies.com](http://www.wheelabratortechologies.com).

About Waste Management:

Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Through its subsidiaries, the company provides collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. It is also a leading developer, operator, and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. The company’s 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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