

Wheelabrator Saugus Receives International Habitat Conservation Award

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.

Media

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BALTIMORE — Nov. 17, 2008 — Employees at the Saugus, Mass., waste-to-energy facility of Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management, received international recognition for their contributions to wildlife habitat conservation at the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) 20th Annual Symposium, 20/20 Vision: Celebrating the Past, Looking to the Future. Waste Management and Wheelabrator demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing native biodiversity by achieving habitat and Corporate Lands for Learning (CLL) certification at the Wheelabrator Saugus, J.V.

"This year, our 20th Anniversary, WHC celebrates two decades of solid leadership and on-the-ground achievements by our members in wildlife habitat preservation and conservation education," said Robert Johnson, WHC president. "WHC members are continuing to lead the way to further define and demonstrate how corporations can use their lands to preserve our biodiversity, while preparing new generations through conservation education to understand how to be better leaders and managers for tomorrow's sustainable businesses and communities. Congratulations to Wheelabrator Saugus for their volunteer-based efforts to preserve the biodiversity of their community and the world, and to connect people to nature."

The Wheelabrator Saugus site is comprised of 300 acres located in Essex County, Massachusetts. Initially established as a mitigation measure in the 1990's, the site has continued to maintain and enhance approximately 200 acres of the property for wildlife. Wheelabrator has developed the project into the Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, complete with an on-site meeting and teaching center. Through partnerships with local educational institutes, the site is actively used as a classroom and field laboratory for a variety of environmental studies.

The Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern as designated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Concern. The site developed and maintains numerous specific native habitats including coastal shrubland, early successional forest, native grasslands and wet meadows in order to attract targeted wildlife species.

The site's location along the North Atlantic Flyway was the basis for the habitat and wildlife goals for the site due to the high percentage of birds that migrate northward through Massachusetts. In order to increase diversity on the site to provide quality food sources, cover and space for migratory birds, the site has been controlling the non-native invasive species phragmites australis. The primary invasive control plan for the site is an adaptive management program designed to enhance natural selection to favor the long-term establishment of native species. To accomplish this, the site implemented a number of programs based on soil and growing condition enhancements that favor indigenous plant communities. In order to track the health of the habitat for avian species the site has established partnerships with members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society who conduct annual Christmas bird counts as well as grassland bird counts.

The Corporate Lands for Learning (CLL) program at Saugus takes advantage of the many learning opportunities provided by the Rumney Marshes, an Area of Critical Concern. This site's CLL programming is firmly based in the partnerships made in the local area. Many of the lessons in the pollinator gardens, biological field study station and nature trails are coordinated through the partnership with North Shore Community College. NSCC conducts annual arboriculture classes at the site, and hosts annual Christmas Bird Counts and Grassland Bird Surveys. They also use the site extensively in a Dendrology (study of trees) course.

Other community partners include Project YES (Youth Empowerment and Success), who uses the site regularly, Waybright Elementary School, who tours the Sanctuary as part of their Ecology Club, and Essex Agricultural & Technical High School, who conducts an on-going transect study.

Wheelabrator Saugus was one of 214 sites recognized at the 2008 Symposium for creating a Wildlife at WorkSM program. In addition, 97 Corporate Lands for LearningSM programs reach thousands of learners from schools and scout groups to master gardeners and university researchers. Since 1990, WHC has certified 489 programs worldwide. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

About Wheelabrator Saugus, J.V.

Located in Saugus, Massachusetts, and the Wheelabrator Saugus waste-to-energy facility provides dependable, environmentally safe disposal of municipal solid waste for 750,000 people, while generating clean electricity for sale to the local utility. In continuous operation since 1975, this landmark facility is the United States' first commercially successful waste-to-energy facility. Designed, constructed, owned and operated by Wheelabrator, Wheelabrator Saugus processes up to 1,500 tons per day of municipal solid waste from 10 communities on the North Shore of Massachusetts. Wheelabrator Saugus has an electric generating capacity of 40,000 kilowatts; the equivalent of supplying the electrical needs of 35,000 Massachusetts homes.

About Wheelabrator Technologies Inc.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management of Houston, Texas, Wheelabrator Technologies Inc. is a world leader in the safe and environmentally sound conversion of municipal solid waste 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.wheelabratortechnologies.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 or www.thinkgreen.com.

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