

Neighbor

Neighbor to Neighbor –
Waste Management is Committed
to Keeping You Informed

Volume 13, Number 2
Winter 2014

News from Waste Management's Austin Community Landfill

Dear Neighbors



James "Bubba" Smith

Happy Holidays! We hope you and your family have a joyous holiday season.

If possible, we hope everyone will do what they can to "reduce, reuse and recycle" during the holiday season. The volume of household garbage generally increases 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. We provide a few tips for a greener holiday in this newsletter.

And don't forget we offer free tree recycling at the landfill! We chip the trees into mulch

that is used for erosion control around the landfill.

We have some good news to share – the



Wildlife Habitat Council has commended our wildlife team and wildlife habitat gardens at the landfill entrance on achieving Wildlife at Work recertification. Look for the sign at the gardens!

Have a great holiday!

James "Bubba" Smith

FREE TREE RECYCLING

Turn your Christmas tree into mulch! Just drop off your tree anytime between the dates below.

**Friday, December 26 through
Saturday, January 10**
Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday – 7 a.m. to noon



The Engineering of a Landfill Cell

Waste Management has begun constructing a new landfill cell in the northwest section of the property. This is a highly engineered



The highly engineered landfill cell is about 15 acres in size.

process designed to create a liner system to protect groundwater. During the entire process, an independent engineering firm tests and qualifies the proper construction of the liner system and provides a report to the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality.

Here is a step-by-step look at how a landfill cell is constructed:

- A landfill cell is prepared, first with two feet of compacted clay as the bottom layer.
- A black plastic liner, which is made of an extremely durable, 60-mil, high-density polyethylene material, is placed on top of the clay and along the sides of the landfill cell. Together, the clay and plastic liners provide a protective barrier between the landfill and groundwater.
- The sheets of black plastic liner are mechanically fused together to create a continuous barrier. During construction, seams are tested

in place to ensure uniform quality. In addition, samples of the fusion-welded seams are taken and tested for strength and durability with the machine pictured here. If a seal fails to hold, the identified sheet is repaired or replaced.

- The cell bottom is sloped to promote drainage of liquids called "leachate" to a collection sump. Leachate are liquids that results when rainfall soaks into trash and by the decomposition of trash.



Workers lay the geotextile composite material on top of plastic liner.

- After the black plastic liner is placed, a geotextile composite material is placed on the bottom of the cell and a geotextile fabric is placed on the sides, both designed to provide a pathway for leachate to flow to the sump for recovery.



Workers sew the geotextile fabric together, which lays on top of the plastic liner.

Austin Community Landfill

9900 Giles Road
Austin, TX 78754

Our Door is Open

Waste Management is committed to the community and maintains an open-door policy. We can arrange for a tour of the landfill for you or any interested organization. And we're always eager to answer your questions.

Just give us a call – 512-272-9387.

<http://austincommunitylandfill.wm.com>



THINK GREEN.®

Greening Your Holidays

It's easy to get "wrapped up" with traditional holiday decorations, but for a "greener" holiday, check out these eco-friendly ideas for decking the halls and gifting.

Green Your Holiday Decorating

- Re-use holiday decorations or check out holiday thrift stores for gently-used holiday decorations
- Buy a living tree that you can plant outside after the holidays (or maybe a rosemary tree)
- Decorate using items found in nature: branches from the tree, a bowl of fresh fruit, basket filled with berries and pine cones
- Take your trees to be chipped into mulch
- Use energy-efficient lights and put them on timers
- Use cloth napkins, plates and silverware – avoid disposables

Holiday Cards

- More than 1.6 billion Christmas cards are sold in the U.S. every year -- that's a lot of paper!
- Consider sending an electronic holiday card to reduce waste
- If you prefer the traditional card, consider those printed on recycled paper or using postcards that don't require envelopes



Eco-Friendly Gifts

- Shop at locally owned stores or retailers
- Mail gifts in boxes padded with newspaper
- Wrap presents in gift bags that can be re-used
- Make the container part of the gift – a mixing bowl with kitchen goodies, watering can with gardening supplies, blanket with soy candles, basket with homemade goodies

IN THE COMMUNITY

Bluebonnet Trail Elementary

A long-time contributor to the Manor Education Foundation, Waste Management presented a check for \$3,000 in support of Bluebonnet Trail Elementary to enrich its math and science curriculum.



Waste Management representative Sara Morgenroth (second from left) presented a check to Bluebonnet Trail Elementary Instructional Coach Camela Guyton, Principal Debby Ewald and Assistant Principal Carolina Landry.

Waste Management also supported the train ride at the school's Fall Festival.



Melina Maldonado riding the train



Elijah Herrera and father Daniel Herrera

Keep Austin Beautiful Underwater Cleanup

About 750 volunteers dedicated some 1,500 volunteer hours to clean up Lake Travis from debris along 26 miles of shoreline. Waste Management provided the roll-off containers and free disposal of the collected trash.

