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## **WASTE MANGEMENT OF IOWA AND METRO WASTE AUTHORITY CELEBRATE ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH**

*Metro Methane Recovery Facility generates 6,400 kilowatts of clean renewable energy to contribute to Iowa's clean energy portfolio*

**DES MOINES, IA – October 30, 2009** – In honor of Energy Awareness Month, Waste Management of Iowa and Metro Waste Authority celebrate the landfill-gas-to-energy (LFGTE) facility in Mitchellville. The facility helps to power Eastern Polk County by generating 6,400 kilowatts of electricity for MidAmerican Energy from more than 500,000 tons of waste each year. The Metro Methane Recovery Facility illustrates Waste Management and Metro Waste Authority's long-term sustainability efforts to increase its contribution to the country's renewable energy portfolio.

Methane, a greenhouse gas 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide, is produced by the break down of organic material and waste within a landfill. Landfill-gas-to-energy facilities collect the methane and use it to fuel onsite engines or turbines, generating electricity to power surrounding homes and neighborhoods.

The Metro Methane Recovery Facility produces enough electricity to meet the power needs of approximately 10,000 homes in Eastern Polk County. The landfill gas collection system provides the energy equivalent of 112,000 barrels of oil per year. This LFGTE facility is a prime example of how Iowa can decrease its dependence on current, inefficient and unsustainable energy practices by building an infrastructure around renewable resources, such as waste based energy.

“By developing landfill gas to energy facilities, Waste Management and Metro Waste Authority are recovering resources and transforming them into a renewable energy for the community,” said Kent Harrell, Waste Management's Area Vice President. “Des Moines, its residents and the partnership between Waste Management and Metro Waste Authority serve as a model of how waste based energy at the municipal level can help broaden the nation's ultimate goal of more clean renewable energy.”

“Imagine taking trash and making power to turn on your lights at home,” says Tom Hadden, Executive Director of Metro Waste Authority. “We are literally taking residents waste and creating electricity from it. As the nation focuses on how to use all alternative form of energy, we are excited about the possibilities to grow this resource.”

In addition to LFGTE, Waste Management is one of the leading operators of waste-to-energy (WtE) plants in the United States and is exploring new waste-based technologies including plasma gasification and waste-based-biofuels. The development of these technologies is part of Waste Management's national corporate sustainability goal to double its waste based energy production by 2020.

### **About Waste Management**

*Waste Management, based in Houston, Texas, is the leading provider of comprehensive waste management services in North America. Our subsidiaries provide collection, transfer, recycling and resource recovery, and disposal services. We are also a leading developer, operator and owner of waste-to-energy and landfill gas-to-energy facilities in the United States. Our 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).*

### **About Metro Waste Authority**

*Metro Waste Authority is an award-winning regional government agency that manages the Metro Park East Landfill, the Metro Park West Landfill, the Metro Compost Center, the Metro Recycling Center, the Metro Transfer Station, and the Regional Collection Center for Household Hazardous Materials. MWA also coordinates recycling programs for its member communities and is a leader in many environmental issues in Central Iowa. Metro Waste Authority is self-funded through fees charged to those who use the landfills and its other services. The agency does not receive tax dollars.*