



NEWS RELEASE

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**WARWICK LANDFILL RECEIVES
INTERNATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION AWARD**

BALTIMORE, MD— Waste Management’s Warwick Landfill has received international recognition for its contribution to wildlife habitat conservation. The award was presented Tuesday evening at the Wildlife Habitat Council’s (WHC) 16th Annual Symposium, *Beyond Borders: Reconciling Wildlife Needs & Human Activity*, in Baltimore, Maryland. Along with the Waste Managements’s Petrolia Landfill and its closed Blackwell Landfill in Sarnia, the Warwick Landfill is the first in Canada to receive WHC certification.

“Sixteen years ago, WHC was formed as a cooperative effort between corporations, communities and conservation organizations. Since then our shared mission has evolved and provided many advances in creating sustainable wildlife habitat. We congratulate Waste Management on its efforts to help advance our initiatives to restore and enhance our natural resources. It is with this support that we can create a more ecologically sound and mutually beneficial environment for all,” said Bill Howard, WHC President.

Since purchasing the Warwick Landfill in 1996, Waste Management has worked closely with the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Warwick Public Liaison Committee (PLC) to develop a pilot program to treat leachate. This project began with 20,000 hybrid poplars being planted over 4 hectares on the landfill cap. Irrigation lines have been installed to move leachate from the landfill to the poplars, which are known for being able to absorb leachate and reduce the amount of treated leachate discharged to the environment. The poplar plantation has created a new ecosystem for insects, birds and mammals. The new forest acts as a wildlife corridor between two existing woodlots on the property. The project’s team members also plan to plant and encourage the natural regeneration of shrubs and grasses to create

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buffers to provide shelter for birds and small animals, and to establish windbreaks for prevention of soil erosion.

“We are delighted to have received this very prestigious award from the Wildlife Habitat Council and want to especially acknowledge the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and the Warwick PLC for their input, hard work and dedication to this project,” said Reid Cleland, the District Manager of Southwest Landfills for Waste Management.

The Warwick Landfill was one of 143 sites recognized at the 2004 Symposium for creating a habitat program. Since 1990, WHC has certified 353 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.

The Wildlife Habitat Council is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. More than 2 million acres in 48 states, Puerto Rico and 16 other countries are managed for wildlife through WHC-assisted projects. For more information, visit WHC online at www.wildlifehc.org.

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PHOTO CAPTION - Wildlife Habitat Council President Bill Howard (centre) presents certification award to Steve Shaw (left), Conservation Services Specialist at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority and Reid Cleland, Waste Management's District Manager for Southwestern Ontario at WHC's annual symposium in Baltimore, Maryland.

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