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### **SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOL CHILDREN TOURED WASTE MANAGEMENT RECYCLING CENTER DURING OCEANSIDE'S GREEN WEEK**

#### *Facility Tour Underscored Importance of Recycling on the Environment*

(Oceanside, CA) March 15, 2011 – Underscoring its commitment to education and the importance of recycling and sustainability to the environment, Waste Management gave tours of its Oceanside and El Cajon recycling facilities to a group of South African elementary school children and a member of the South African governmental organization Buyisa-e-Bag. The group was hosted in California by The Earth Organization as part of the City of Oceanside's Green Week 2011.

“By providing a first-hand demonstration of how materials are separated and processed for recycling, we hoped to increase awareness and benefits of these important practices,” said Lori Somers community and municipal relations representative from Waste Management. “We enjoyed sharing these recycling practices with our South African friends as part of Oceanside's Green Week, which Waste Management has been proud to support over the years.”

The Earth Organization, a non-profit based in Los Angeles, hosted the children and a member of the South African Department of Education on a visit to Southern California as part of the non-profit's goal to create relationships and dialogue world-wide about environmental sustainability, recycling and wildlife conservation. The elementary school children celebrate a “Green Day” in South Africa, which includes an art contest about recycling and anti-littering, and several pieces of their artwork were on display at the Green Oceanside Youth Art Contest.

Oceanside's “Green Week” included a series of free events designed to promote a green Oceanside community. Sponsored by Green Oceanside, a collaboration of several city departments interested in promoting environmental sustainability and awareness, the week-long events included a Green Oceanside Youth Art Contest, environmental film festival, composting workshop, green fair, beach clean up, used household battery drop off, and e-waste drop off, among other activities.

#### **About Waste Management**

As North America's largest provider of waste and environmental services, Waste Management is on a quest for environmental performance, to maximize resource value and minimize environmental impact. Waste is a valuable resource. Waste Management takes innovative steps to maximize and recover the resource that is in waste. To learn more information about Waste Management, visit <http://northcounty.wm.com> or [www.thinkgreen.com](http://www.thinkgreen.com)

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