

TEXARKANA TODAY



July 2015

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Weather Has Impact on Recycling and Yard Waste

While massive rainfall amounts in May and June created havoc for city and county crews, farmers and ranchers, and the general population as a whole, it appears that the unusual weather patterns also had an impact on recycling and yard waste collections. Recycling tonnages actually dropped slightly for the first six months of the year—partially attributable to the heavy rainfall, but at the same time the rain resulted in a significant increase in yard waste being taken to the Texarkana Water Utility composting facility.

During the first six months of 2015, Texarkana residents recycled 792.7 tons of material, compared to 1699 tons during the 12-month period in 2014. However, yard waste material increased significantly over that same period of time, with Waste Management crews collecting 706.2 tons of yard waste versus 1075 tons for all of 2014. Total trash collected also increased during the same time period. From January through June, the total amount of trash collected was 4,653.4 tons versus 9,051 tons for all of 2014.

Despite lower recycling volumes, Texarkana residents continued to recycle at a high rate of participation with more than 53% of residents putting out their recycling carts on a given week and over 70% of residents participating overall.



What It Means to Think Green

For the first six months of 2015, Texarkana diverted **793 tons of recyclables** and **706 tons of yard waste** from the landfill, which is equal to **2,450 metric tons** of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent, or...



conserving

**275,684 gallons
of gasoline**



growing

**62,821 tree seedlings
for 10 years**



removing the annual emissions from

516 cars off the road



Saving CO₂ emissions from

**224 homes' energy
use for one year**

Recycle Often. Recycle Right.SM

The recycling world has changed. The **material we use daily has evolved** tremendously. There is additional confusion since recycling programs vary from area to area.

Did you know...

- 69% of plastic bottles don't get recycled.
- 45% of aluminum cans end up in the garbage.
- Liquids often spoil a whole load of otherwise recyclable paper.

That's why it's time to get back to the basics of good recycling with these simple recycling rules:

1. Recycle all bottles, cans and paper.
2. Keep items clean and dry.
3. No plastic bags.



Recycling Myth-busters- Visit RORR.com

CAN BATTERIES BE RECYCLED CURBSIDE?



www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com



Residential Demolition

Despite the unusual weather conditions, city crews kept their pace of demolishing two homes per month through the first half of the year.

As part of Leadership Texarkana's "Focus on Our Future" initiative, Waste Management participated in the focus on "Pride of Place" by working with the City to remove those dilapidated homes. We hauled 72 roll off containers—or 2,160 yards of material—to our New Boston landfill at a discounted rate, saving the City over \$21,000 in hauling and disposal costs.

Environmental and Economic impact studies show that allowing one area of the city to deteriorate has a strong negative impact on the entire city.

The Cost of Blight:

- A Danger to the Public
- Leads to Increase in Crime
- Lowers Surrounding Property Values
- Reduces Local Property Tax Revenue
- Shifts Property Tax Burden to Other Areas of the City



Closed landfill hosts “legendary” outdoor school

Site preparing for Wildlife Habitat Council recertification

Jarrold Miller’s day job is district manager for Waste Management’s Texarkana Hauling Company. But, in April he put his leadership skills to another use, teaching six graders how to build birdhouses at an outdoor school at WM’s Hoot Landfill near Fouke, AR. Most of the kids had never built anything on their own before.

“When the kids finished and were proud of their birdhouse and taking pictures for friends and parents, that made it worth it to me, Miller said.

WM colleagues Doug Sims, Greta Calvery and Andrews Shafer also



contributed to the school, along with a dozen volunteers from the community and the Sulphur River Waterfowl Association. The Association manages the 215-acre closed landfill in cooperation with WM, with the goal of enhancing bird and other wildlife habitat.

The three-day school, held every spring, teaches students about science and nature topics tied to their curriculum. This year, 67 students from the Fouke ISD

Participated in activities such as tree, plant, fish, bird, reptile and mammal identification.

“The best thing is observing students participating in an outdoor experience that otherwise may not have been available to them,” Shafer said. “As one teacher told us, ‘The Outdoor School has become legendary. Sixth-grade students at Fouke look forward to this activity every year.’”

“People often think of WM as a big company based out of Houston and not part of the local community. They tend to forget all of our employees are local and are active in our community,” Miller said. “This is our way to show that WM cares about our area.”



WM Debuts on 100 Best Corporate Citizens List

Waste Management has been named to Corporate Responsibility Magazine's list of the 100 Best Corporate citizens, which ranks public companies based on outstanding corporate responsibility performance. This year marks the first time WM has appeared on the list, debuting at Number 54.

“We are honored to be recognized among CR Magazine's 100 Best Corporate Citizens,” said David Steiner, WM president and chief executive officer. “As North America's leading environmental solutions provider, we have a stake in helping to make our cities, towns and counties better places in which to work and live—not just for today, but for the future. It's a responsibility we take to heart.”

The 100 Best Corporate Citizen List documents 303 data points of disclosure and performance measures collected from publicly available information in seven categories: environmental,



climate change, employee relations, human rights, governance, finance, and philanthropy and community support.

“This ranking signals to our stakeholders that WM is an industry leader in the transparent reporting of our performance in key areas of corporate responsibility,” said Sue Briggum, WM vice president, state and federal policy.

