



# Perspectives

Welcome to *PERSPECTIVES*, an email-newsletter designed to give you a window into what is going on here at El Sobrante Landfill. Topics include waste management issues, community involvement, and environmental protection and legislation. We hope you enjoy it.

## EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL

*El Sobrante Landfill is a Class 3 regional disposal facility permitted to accept up to 10,000 tons per day, seven days per week. It employs approximately 40 full-time employees. Landfill operations are overseen by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, and the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health.*

### **Letter from Damon De Frates District Manager, El Sobrante Landfill**

Dear Friends,

This month, Waste Management launched an online service, ThinkGreenFromHome.com, to provide residents with a convenient solution to recycle household electronic waste, such as compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and batteries.

By 2012, all communities across California will be required to use CFLs and the need to properly dispose of CFLs, batteries and other electronic waste will increase.

ThinkGreenFromHome.com is a service that provides an easy and responsible solution to help consumers recycle this waste as safely and conveniently as possible.

I am very pleased to report that recently Waste Management employees in our Corona Hauling District and El Sobrante Landfill helped Corona resident newlyweds, Alfred and Dora Nila, end their string of bad luck by working jointly to find some valuable articles of clothing that had been thrown in the trash by mistake.

It's always heartening to see an employee willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to help a customer. Ultimately, our goal is to be a trusted community partner in all the communities we serve, and employees like customer representatives, Kathrine Martinez and Anita Caballero, waste truck driver Luis Amezcua, landfill supervisor Nick Godfrey and landfill employees Jose A. Gonzalez, David Braxton and Pete Solorio exemplify that spirit.

Finally, I want to introduce a new member to El Sobrante Team: Shannon Fernandez. He comes with a strong technical experience and will work as one of our landfill gas technicians. I am certain that he will be a great fit to our team. We welcome him and wish him the best of luck!

As always, we invite you to tour our operations and to answer any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Community Relations Manager Lily Quiroa at 951-277-5112

Best,

Damon De Frates  
District Manager  
El Sobrante Landfill



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## Waste Management Launches [ThinkGreenFromHome.com](http://ThinkGreenFromHome.com)

Waste Management launched this month an online service to provide residents with a convenient recycling solution for household electronic waste, including compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), batteries, and eventually other household electronics. ThinkGreenFromHome.com offers consumers convenient mail-in solutions to safely store and recycle heavy metal containing household devices, as well as information to encourage household sustainability.



CFLs provide energy savings and help reduce a household's environmental profile. However, since the devices contain mercury, proper handling and disposal of the bulbs is an important consideration. CFL use is growing rapidly – it is expected that some 4 billion CFLs will be in household use by 2012 – but safe, convenient methods for recycling CFLs and other household universal waste have previously been lacking.

To safely store and recycle used CFLs and batteries, customers can order online and receive prepaid-postage kits delivered to their door. Think Green® From Home CFL recycling kits incorporate Mercury VaporLok™ technology, which is designed to reduce the risk of airborne exposure and environmental contamination from lamps broken during storage and shipping.

The kits are suitable for both the storage and transport of discarded bulbs or batteries and are approved for shipping by the United States Postal Service. Consumers can ship the boxes directly from their home or at any one of the over 34,000 postal offices across the country.

ThinkGreenFromHome.com is part of Waste Management's sustainability initiative that was announced last October at the World Business Forum committing the company to investing in new technologies to enhance our waste business as well as nearly tripling the amount of recyclables it manages by 2020.

For more information on CFL, battery and electronic waste recycling, or to order recycling kits, visit <http://www.thinkgreenfromhome.com>.

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### **Waste Management Employees Help Newlyweds**

It was trash day and Alfred Nila, trying to help new wife, Dora, take the trash out, mistook a bag sitting in the front room of the house as trash and placed in the trash bin. Dora had placed the bag with her husband's best dress shirts in the front door to remind herself that it needed to be dropped off at the drycleaners. The newlyweds realized the mistake soon after the waste truck had come to haul their trash away.



For Dora, it wasn't the value of the shirts that concerned her, but rather the snafu represented a string of bad luck that had been shadowing the newlyweds for the last couple of months. In May, Dora got laid off her job after 15 years in the construction industry and in June, during their honeymoon, the couple lost their camera along with some cash.

Dora contacted Waste Management staff hoping that by retrieving the bag, the couple would break their string of bad luck. However, she knew that her fate depended on Waste Management staff helping her go through the trash at the landfill and find that bag.

Her luck changed as soon as she contacted Waste Management customer representative, Kathrine Martinez, whose willingness to help and quick thinking resulted in tracking down the trash truck driver before he reached the landfill. Kathrine even arranged for Dora to meet the driver and landfill supervisor at the entrance of El Sobrante Landfill.

El Sobrante Landfill Supervisor, Nick Godfrey, skillfully isolated the specific load of trash containing the bag of shirts from the rest of the trash in the landfill. WM landfill employees and managers spent 40 minutes searching for a white plastic bag amongst a sea of plastic bags. It seemed like an impossible mission, but Dora struck luck and the bag was found with all articles of clothing accounted for.

She can't thank Waste Management staff enough for going above and beyond to assist her in her personal plight to end her bad luck.



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### ***New Member to El Sobrante Team***

El Sobrante Landfill has hired Shannon Fernandez as the new landfill gas technician. Shannon's main responsibility will be assisting in the maintenance of the landfill's extensive gas collection system.

The gas collection system consists of a series of vertical gas extraction wells and horizontal trenches that extract methane gas, which is produced by the natural decomposition of waste, from the landfill. The gas collection system needs to be consistently maintained to assure that the vertical wells and horizontal trenches divert the landfill gas either to the gas flare where it is ignited and thermally destroyed in a safe and environmentally manner, or to our gas-to-energy generators where it transforms landfill gas into approximately 3.84 megawatts of electricity. The electricity is then fed directly into the local Southern California Edison grid where it is used to meet the power demands of approximately 6,000 local homes a year.



Shannon comes with over 10 years experience in fieldwork and has extensive training in safety from working in the railroad and gas industries. We are certain that his skills will enhance our team and are excited to have him be part of our Waste Management team.

Shannon is a native Californian--- born, raised and still resides in Ontario. He is happily engaged to fiancée, Misty, and is a great dad to daughter, Erika, 9 and son, Junior, 7. When the family is not enjoying the outdoors, they are at home competing with each other playing video games. Shannon takes pride in his extensive collection of video game systems and games.

Shannon is happy to join our Waste Management team, where he sees his skills and strong work ethic put to good use and hopefully open opportunities for him.