



For more information, contact: info@freecycle.org

**Pioneers of World's Largest Gifting Nonprofit
Receive a Holiday Gift of their Own from Recycling Industry Leader
Waste Management Recognizes Freecycle Leaders
Who Help Keep 100 Million Pounds of Items Out of Landfills**

Dec. 16, 2005 – The top 46 leaders worldwide of the Freecycle Network today received Environmental Stewardship Awards and a gift from Waste Management for their on behalf of Freecycle, the world's largest online network that focuses on gifting items that might otherwise be thrown away.

These leaders was recognized by Freecycle peers worldwide for outstanding work in helping Freecycle divert reusable products from landfills and to conserve natural resources. These efforts, combined with a total of 3,238 local Freecycle groups used their online network to keep more than 100 million pounds of goods out of the nation's landfills in 2005.

Throughout the year, nearly 8 million items were given away through the worldwide communities on www.freecycle.org. Freecycle has 3,238 groups in 50 countries, with more than 1.8 million members. Waste Management is Freecycle's founding sponsor.

"We are proud to be a supporter of The Freecycle Network and to ensure that each day goods that have useful life remaining can be given to individuals or non-profit organizations that have a need for them," said Kent Stoddard, Vice President of Public Affairs for Waste Management's West Group. "Following the tenants of reduce, reuse and recycle, Freecycle is a prime example of how a grassroots movement can ease the burden on our landfills while helping turn one person's trash into another person's treasure."

These leaders are part of a global online network of people keeping over 22,000 items a day out of landfills. In doing so they are focusing efforts to help preserve our open space and natural resources -- a deeply meaningful gift to their local community as well as to a worldwide recycling and reuse movement," said Deron Beal, founder of Freecycle. "And, having passed the one hundred million pound mark for this year is a huge milestone for us -- It is the equivalent of three times the height of Mt. Everest if stacked in garbage trucks!"

In addition to being The Freecycle Network's founding sponsor, Waste Management is North America's largest provider of recycling and solid waste services. The Company has received numerous awards for its pioneering work in alternative fueled vehicles, habitat conservation, and recycling technologies. For more information visit www.wm.com.

The Freecycle Network is a nonprofit organization and the largest nonprofit recycling movement in the world. For more information visit www.freecycle.org.