Waste Management, Inc. (WM)

**Business:** Waste collection and disposal with market capitalization of $17.15 billion in 2011 (1)

**Climate Statements:**
- “Over the next 10 years, our goal is to reduce emissions and increase fleet efficiency 15 percent. We are implementing a range of technologies to make our trucks more efficient, including controlling emissions, using alternative fuels, and optimizing truck design.” – Sustainability Report of Waste Management, Inc. (2)
- “The adoption of climate change legislation or regulations restricting emission of ‘greenhouse gases’ could increase our costs to operate.” – Annual Report of Waste Management, Inc. (3)

**Congressional Testimony:** None found.

**Endangerment Comment:** “The Department[s] of Agriculture, Transportation, and Energy, and even EPA Administrator Johnson, noted CAA [Clean Air Act] is an ‘an outdated law originally enacted to control regional pollutants that cause direct health effects’ and direct impacts to public welfare.” – Waste Management, Inc. (4)

**Securities and Exchange Commission:** “Environmental advocacy groups and regulatory agencies in the United States have been focusing considerable attention on the emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, and other ‘greenhouse gases’ and their potential role in climate change. The adoption of laws and regulations to implement controls of greenhouse gases, including the imposition of fees or taxes, could adversely affect our collection and disposal operations.” (5)

**Trade Organization Affiliations:** California Climate Registry, (6) Carbon Disclosure Project, (7) U.S. Chamber of Commerce, (8) and National Association of Manufacturers (board member) (9)

**Think Tank/Environmental Group Affiliations:** Environmental Research and Education Foundation and Keep America Beautiful

**Contributions:** Ratio of pro-climate to anti-climate contributions: 1:1.34
Contributions both to pro- and anti-climate members of Congress: $149,020 (10)

**Federal Lobbying:** $5,580,000 from 2002–2010. Peaked at $980,000 in 2009. (10)

**Shareholder Proposals:** In 2008 and 2009 the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, a shareholder of Waste Management, Inc., submitted a resolution advocating greater disclosure of the company’s political contributions on the grounds that without “a system of accountability, we are concerned that Company assets may be used for policy objectives that may be inimical to Waste Management’s long-term interests.” The resolution cited Waste Management Inc.’s affiliation with the National Association of Manufacturers and the group’s “political activities” opposing climate change legislation as a particularly significant instance where shareholders have an interest in obtaining more information about the company’s spending. The resolution was opposed by the board and did not win a majority vote either year. (11)

**Miscellaneous:** Waste Management engages in corporate-image advertising that highlights its recycling and innovative energy-saving approaches. (12) The media have taken note of Waste Management’s “Think Green” campaign and have praised many of its actions, such as converting landfill gas to fuel in the form of liquefied natural gas. (13)
Waste Management defends a senior company executive’s membership on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), a trade group with an anti-climate legislation agenda: This membership is “an effort to ensure that the Company’s interests are represented by that trade association. NAM has supported inclusion of landfill gas-to-energy in the Federal Renewable Portfolio Standard contained in the House-passed climate change bill and the pending Senate bill.” (3)

Works Cited


