

Common
Stock, par
value \$0.01
per share
....
2,000,000
\$24.695
\$49,390,000
\$3,995.65
Common
Stock, par
value \$0.01
per share
.... 89,266

-
- (1) The Registrant previously filed a registration statement on Form S-8 to register the issuance of shares pursuant to the Waste Management, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "Plan") on September 1, 2000, Registration No. 333-45064 (the "Old S-8"). The Old S-8 registered the issuance of up to 1,409,708 shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock"), under the Plan. There are currently 89,266 shares of Common Stock registered for issuance under the Old S-8 that have not been issued (the "Unissued Shares"). The registrant paid fees totaling \$447.76 to register the Unissued Shares. Pursuant to General Instruction E to Form S-8, the Unissued Shares are being carried forward from such earlier registration statement and, accordingly, the Registrant has offset the registration fee to be paid herewith by the \$447.76 in fees that were paid by the Registrant on September 1, 2000.
 - (2) Represents the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on June 16, 2003.
 - (3) Computed in accordance with Rules 457(c) and (h) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, solely for the purpose of calculating the total registration fee. The aggregate offering price and amount of registration fee have been computed based on the average of the high and low prices of Common Stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on June 16, 2003.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Registrant has filed this registration statement on Form S-8 to register the issuance of an additional 2,000,000 shares of Common Stock pursuant to the Waste Management, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "Plan"). The Registrant previously filed a registration statement on Form S-8 to register the issuance of shares pursuant to the Plan on September 1, 2000, Registration No. 333-45064 (the "Old S-8"). The Old S-8 registered the issuance of up to 1,409,708 shares of Common Stock under the Plan. There are currently 89,266 shares of Common Stock registered for issuance under the Old S-8 that have not been issued (the "Unissued Shares").

In accordance with the principles set forth in Interpretation 89 under Section G "Securities Act Forms" of the Manual of Publicly Available Telephone Interpretations of the Division of Corporation Finance of the Securities and Exchange Commission (July 1997) and Instruction E to Form S-8, the Unissued Shares are being carried forward from the Old S-8. Additionally, contemporaneously with the filing of this Registration Statement, the Registrant is filing an amendment to post-effectively amend the Old S-8 to deregister the issuance of the Unissued Shares.

Upon this registration statement's effectiveness, there will be 2,089,266 shares of Common Stock registered for issuance under the Plan, 2,000,000 shares newly registered hereby and 89,266 shares from the Old S-8.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

ITEM 1. PLAN INFORMATION. *

ITEM 2. REGISTRANT INFORMATION AND EMPLOYEE PLAN ANNUAL INFORMATION. *

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* Information required by Part I to be contained in the Section 10(a) prospectus is omitted from this Registration Statement in accordance with Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the "Note" to Part I of Form S-8.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

ITEM 3. INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE.

The following documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") by the Registrant are hereby incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement:

- (a) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002.
- (b) Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003.
- (c) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Commission pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), on July 1, 1993, as amended on Form 8-B filed with the Commission on July 13, 1995.

All documents subsequently filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all of the securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

ITEM 4. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. INTERESTS OF NAMED EXPERTS AND COUNSEL.

Not applicable.

ITEM 6. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

The Certificate of Incorporation (the "Charter") and the Bylaws of the Registrant provide in effect that the Registrant shall indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents (as well as persons serving as a director, officer, employee or agent of any of the Registrant's direct or indirect subsidiaries) to the extent permitted by the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL"). Sections 102 and 145 of the DGCL provide that a Delaware corporation has the power to indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents in certain circumstances, as described below.

In accordance with Section 102 of the DGCL, the Registrant's Charter contains a provision that eliminates the personal liability of directors of the Registrant or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except in cases where the director breached his or her duty of loyalty to the Registrant or its stockholders, failed to act in good faith, engaged in intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, willfully or negligently authorized the unlawful payment of a dividend or approved an unlawful stock redemption or repurchase or obtained an improper personal benefit.

Pursuant to Subsection (a) of Section 145 of the DGCL, the Registrant's Bylaws provide that the Registrant shall indemnify any director, officer, employee or agent, or former director, officer, employee or agent who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the Registrant), against expenses

(including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such action, suit or proceeding provided that such director, officer, employee or agent acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, provided that such director, officer, employee or agent had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Pursuant to Subsection (b) of Section 145 of the DGCL, the Registrant's Bylaws provide that the Registrant shall indemnify any director, officer, employee or agent, or former director, officer, employee or agent, who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Registrant to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person acted in any of the capacities set forth above, against expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines, penalties and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the investigation, preparation to defend or defense of such action or suit provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interest of the Registrant, except that no indemnification may be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the Registrant unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery (or such other court in which such action or suit has been brought) shall determine that despite the adjudication of liability such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the court shall deem proper.

The Registrant's Bylaws further provide that, to the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent has been successful in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145 of the DGCL or in the defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith. Any person seeking indemnification as described above shall be deemed to have met the standard of conduct required for such indemnification unless the contrary shall be established. The indemnification provided by Section 145 of the DGCL shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which the party seeking indemnification may be entitled.

Section 145 of the DGCL also provides that a corporation is empowered to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against any liability asserted against him or her or incurred by him or her in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liabilities under Section 145 of the DGCL. The Registrant has purchased certain liability insurance for its officers and directors.

The Registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with certain of its executive officers and certain of its executive officers' employment agreements contain indemnification provisions. Such agreements and provisions generally provide that such persons will be indemnified and held harmless to the fullest extent of Delaware law.

ITEM 7. EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION CLAIMED.

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. EXHIBITS.

The following exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

- 4.1 - Certificate of Incorporation (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter ended June 30, 2002).
- 4.2 - Bylaws (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the Quarter ended June 30, 2002).
- 4.3 - Waste Management, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- 5.1 - Opinion of John S. Tsai with respect to the legality of the securities.
- 23.1 - Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.

- 23.2 - Explanatory Statement Concerning Absence of Current Written Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP.
- 23.3 - Consent of John S. Tsai (included in Exhibit 5.1).
- 24.1 - Powers of Attorney (included on the signature page of this Registration Statement).

ITEM 9. UNDERTAKINGS.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:

- (i) to include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act");
- (ii) to reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement which represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the Registration Statement; and
- (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the Registration Statement or any material change to such information in the Registration Statement.

Provided, however, that the undertakings set forth in paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof; and

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered that remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby further undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all men by these presents, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints A. Maurice Myers, David P. Steiner and Lawrence O'Donnell, III, and each of them, each of whom may act without joinder of the other, his true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all pre- or post-effective amendments to this Registration Statement, including without limitation any registration statement of the type contemplated by Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, or substitute or substitutes of any or all of them, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement on Form S-8 to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas on the 12th day of June, 2003.

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.

/s/ A. Maurice Myers

By: A. Maurice Myers
President and Chief
Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement on Form S-8 has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on the 12th day of June, 2003.

SIGNATURE
TITLE ----

- /s/ A.
Maurice
Myers
President,
Chief
Executive
Officer
and
Chairman
of the
Board - --

(Principal
Executive
Officer)
A. Maurice
Myers /s/
David P.
Steiner
Executive
Vice
President
and Chief
Financial
Officer -

(Principal
Financial
Officer)
David P.
Steiner
/s/ Robert
G. Simpson
Senior
Vice
President
and Chief
Accounting
Officer -

(Principal
Accounting
Officer)
Robert G.
Simpson

/s/ Pastora San Juan Cafferty

Pastora San Juan Cafferty

Director

/s/ Frank M. Clark, Jr.

Frank M. Clark, Jr.

Director

/s/ Robert S. Miller

Robert S. Miller

Director

/s/ John C. Pope

John C. Pope

Director

/s/ W. Robert Reum

W. Robert Reum

Director

/s/ Steven G. Rothmeier

Steven G. Rothmeier

Director

/s/ Carl W. Vogt

Carl W. Vogt

Director

/s/ Ralph V. Whitworth

Ralph V. Whitworth

Director

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.
EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

(AS AMENDED AND RESTATED EFFECTIVE MAY 16, 2003)

The Waste Management, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the "Plan") has been established for the benefit of its eligible employees. The terms of the Plan are set forth below.

1. Definitions.

As used in the Plan the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

(a) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

(b) "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder.

(c) "Committee" means the Administrative Committee of the Waste Management Employee Benefit Plans appointed by the Board to administer the Plan as described in Section 4 below.

(d) "Common Stock" means the common stock, \$0.01 par value, of the Company.

(e) "Company" means Waste Management, Inc., a Delaware corporation, or any successor corporation by merger, reorganization, consolidation or otherwise.

(f) "Continuous Employment" means the absence of any interruption or termination of service as an Eligible Employee with the Company and/or its Participating Subsidiaries. For purposes of the preceding sentence, an authorized leave of absence shall not be considered an interruption or termination of service, provided that such leave is for a period of not more than 90 days or reemployment upon the expiration of such leave is guaranteed by contract or statute.

(g) "Eligible Compensation" means, with respect to each Participant for each pay period, the regular base earnings, commissions, overtime and, for employees on an Involuntary Military Leave of Absence, pay differential, paid to the Participant by the Company and/or one or more Participating Subsidiaries during the Offering Period before reductions are made to Code Section 125 and Section 401(k) plans maintained by the Company and/or its Participating Subsidiaries. However, any incentive compensation or other bonus amounts shall be excluded for purposes of determining Eligible Compensation.

(h) "Eligible Employee" means an employee of the Company or one of its Participating Subsidiaries who is customarily employed for at least 20 hours per week and more than five months in a calendar year, or are absent from active employment while on an Involuntary Military Leave of Absence. For purposes of the preceding sentence, employees who are members of a collective bargaining unit shall be excluded as eligible employees under the Plan, unless their applicable collective bargaining agreement provides for participation in the Plan.

(i) "Enrollment Date" means the first business day of each Offering Period.

(j) "Exercise Date" means the last business day of each Offering Period.

(k) "Exercise Price" means the price per share of Common Stock offered in a given Offering Period, which shall be the lower of: (i) 85% of the Fair Market Value of a share of the Common Stock on the Enrollment Date of such Offering Period, or (ii) 85% of the Fair Market Value of a share of the Common Stock on the Exercise Date of such Offering Period.

(l) "Fair Market Value" means, with respect to a share of Common Stock as of any Enrollment Date or Exercise Date, the closing price of such Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on such date, as reported in The Wall Street Journal. In the event that such a closing price is not available for an Enrollment Date or an Exercise Date, the Fair Market Value of a share of Common Stock on such date shall be the closing price of a share of the Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on the last business day prior to such date or such other amount as may be determined by the Committee by any fair and reasonable means.

(m) "Involuntary Military Leave of Absence" means an employee's leave from employment pursuant to the Company's Paid Leave of Absence Policy to perform military service obligations in the United States Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Public Health Service Corps or National Guard, and the employee is either drafted or a member of the Reserves called to active duty.

(n) "Offering Period" means each six-month period that begins and ends on the business days that coincide with January 1 through June 30, or July 1 through December 31, or such other period or periods as the Committee may establish. However, if the first and/or last day of an Offering Period begins or ends (as applicable) on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, then (i) the first day of the Offering Period will begin on the immediately following business day, and/or (ii) the last day of an Offering Period will end on the immediately preceding business day.

(o) "Participant" means an Eligible Employee who has elected to participate in the Plan by filing an enrollment agreement with the Company as provided below in Section 6.

(p) "Participating Subsidiary" means any Subsidiary not excluded from participation in the Plan by the Committee, in its sole discretion.

(q) "Subsidiary" means any domestic or foreign corporation of which the Company owns, directly or indirectly, 50% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock or other equity interests and that otherwise qualifies as a "subsidiary corporation" within the meaning of Section 424(f) of the Code or any successor thereto.

2. Purpose of the Plan.

The purpose of the Plan is to provide an incentive for present and future employees of the Company and its Participating Subsidiaries to acquire a proprietary interest (or increase an existing proprietary interest) in the Company through the purchase of Common Stock. The Company intends that the Plan qualify as an "employee stock purchase plan" under Section 423 of the Code, and that the Plan shall be administered, interpreted and construed in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 423 of the Code.

3. Shares Reserved for the Plan.

The Company shall reserve for issuance and purchase by Participants under the Plan an aggregate of 4,250,000 shares of Common Stock, subject to adjustment as provided below in Section 13. Shares of Common Stock subject to the Plan may be newly issued shares or treasury shares. If and to the extent that any option to purchase shares of Common Stock shall not be exercised for any reason, or if such right to purchase shares shall terminate as provided herein, the shares that have not been so purchased hereunder shall again become available for the purposes of the Plan, unless the Plan shall have been terminated.

4. Administration of the Plan.

(a) A Committee appointed by the Board shall administer the Plan. The Committee shall have the authority to interpret the Plan, to prescribe, amend and rescind rules and regulations relating to the Plan, to correct any defect or rectify any omission in the Plan, or to reconcile any inconsistency in this Plan and any option to purchase shares granted hereunder, and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the Plan. The Committee's actions and determinations with respect to the foregoing shall be final, conclusive and binding on all persons. The act or determination of a majority of the members of the Committee shall be deemed to be the act or determination of the entire Committee.

(b) The Committee may, in its discretion, request advice or assistance, or employ such other persons as it deems necessary or appropriate for the proper administration of the Plan, including, but not limited to employing a brokerage firm, bank or other financial institution to assist in the purchase of shares, delivery of reports or other administrative aspects of the Plan.

5. Eligibility to Participate in the Plan.

Subject to limitations imposed by Section 423(b) of the Code, each Eligible Employee who is employed by the Company or a Participating Subsidiary for 30 days prior to an Enrollment Date shall be eligible to participate in the Plan for the Offering Period beginning on that Enrollment Date.

6. Election to Participate in the Plan.

(a) Each Eligible Employee may elect to participate in the Plan by completing an enrollment agreement in the form provided by the Company and filing such enrollment agreement with the Company prior to the applicable Enrollment Date, unless the Committee establishes another deadline for filing the enrollment agreement with respect to a given Offering Period.

(b) Unless a Participant withdraws from participation in the Plan as provided in Section 10 or authorizes a different payroll deduction by filing a new enrollment agreement prior to the Enrollment Date of a succeeding Offering Period, a Participant who is participating in an Offering Period as of the Exercise Date of such Offering Period shall be deemed to have (i) elected to participate in the immediately succeeding Offering Period and (ii) authorized the same payroll deduction percentage for such immediately succeeding Offering Period as was in effect for such Participant immediately prior to such succeeding Offering Period.

7. Payroll Deductions.

(a) All Participant contributions to the Plan shall be made only by payroll deductions. Each time a Participant files the enrollment agreement with respect to an Offering Period, the Participant shall authorize payroll deductions to be made during the Offering Period in an amount from 1% to 10% (in whole percentages) of the Eligible Compensation that the Participant receives on each payroll date during such Offering Period. Payroll deductions for a Participant shall commence on the first payroll date following the Enrollment Date and shall end on the last payroll date in the Offering Period to which such authorization is applicable, unless sooner terminated by the Participant as provided below in Section 10.

(b) All payroll deductions made for a Participant shall be deposited in the Company's general corporate account and shall be credited to the Participant's account under the Plan. No interest shall accrue on or be credited with respect to the payroll deductions of a Participant under the Plan. A Participant may not make any additional contributions into such account. All payroll deductions received or held by the Company under the Plan may be used by the Company for any corporate purpose, and the Company shall not be obligated to segregate such payroll deductions.

(c) Except as provided in Section 10, a Participant may not change his contribution election during an Offering Period.

(d) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this Section 7, no Participant may make payroll deductions during any calendar year in excess of \$21,250, or such other limit as may be established by the Committee, in its discretion.

8. Grant of Options.

(a) On the Enrollment Date of each Offering Period, subject to the limitations set forth in Sections 3 and 8(b) hereof, each Eligible Employee shall be granted an option to purchase on the Exercise Date for such Offering Period a number of whole and fractional shares of the Company's Common Stock determined by dividing such Eligible Employee's payroll deductions accumulated during the Offering Period by the Exercise Price established for such Offering Period.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of the Plan to the contrary, no Eligible Employee shall be granted an option under the Plan (i) if, immediately after the grant, such Eligible Employee (or any other person whose stock would be attributed to such Employee pursuant to Section 424(d) of the Code) would own stock and/or hold outstanding options to purchase stock possessing 5% or more of the total combined voting power or value of all classes of stock of the Company or of any Subsidiary of the Company, or (ii) which permits such Eligible Employee's rights to purchase stock under all employee stock purchase plans of the Company and its Subsidiaries to accrue at a rate which exceeds \$25,000 of fair market value of such stock (determined at the time such option is granted) for each calendar year in which such option is outstanding at any time.

9. Automatic Purchase.

Unless a Participant withdraws from the Plan as provided below in Section 10, the Participant's option for the purchase of shares will be exercised automatically on each Exercise Date for which an enrollment agreement has been filed, and the maximum number of whole and fractional shares subject to the option will be purchased for the Participant at the Exercise Price established for that Offering Period, as provided above in Section 8.

10. Withdrawal; Termination of Employment.

(a) A Participant may withdraw all of the payroll deductions credited to the Participant's account for a given Offering Period by providing written notice to the Company no later than 45 days prior to the last day of such Offering Period. A Participant shall not be permitted to make a partial withdrawal of the payroll deductions credited to his account. All of the Participant's payroll deductions credited to the Participant's account will be paid to him promptly after receipt of the Participant's notice of withdrawal, the Participant's participation in the Plan will be automatically terminated, and no further payroll deductions for the purchase of shares hereunder will be made. Payroll deductions will not resume on behalf of a Participant who has withdrawn from the Plan, unless written notice is delivered to the Company within the enrollment period preceding the commencement of a new Offering Period directing the Company to resume payroll deductions.

(b) Upon termination of the Participant's Continuous Employment prior to the Exercise Date of the Offering Period for any reason, including retirement or death, the payroll deductions credited to the Participant's account will be returned to the Participant or, in the case of death, to the Participant's estate, and the Participant's options to purchase shares under the Plan will be automatically terminated.

(c) In the event a Participant ceases to be an Eligible Employee during an Offering Period, the Participant will be deemed to have elected to withdraw all payroll deductions credited to his account from the Plan. In such circumstance, the payroll deductions credited to the Participant's account will be returned to the Participant, and the Participant's options to purchase shares under the Plan will be terminated.

11. Transferability.

Options to purchase Common Stock granted under the Plan are not transferable, in any manner, by a Participant and are exercisable only by the Participant.

12. Reports.

Individual accounts will be maintained for each Participant in the Plan. Following each Exercise Date, statements of account will be given to Participants who have purchased shares under Section 9. Such statements will set forth the amounts of payroll deductions, the per share purchase price, the number of shares purchased and the remaining cash balance, if any.

13. Adjustments Upon Changes in Capitalization.

(a) If the outstanding shares of Common Stock are increased or decreased, or are changed into or are exchanged for a different number or kind of shares, as a result of one or more reorganizations, restructurings, recapitalizations, reclassifications, stock splits, reverse stock splits, stock dividends or the like, upon authorization of the Committee, appropriate adjustments shall be made in the number and/or kind of shares, and the per share purchase price thereof, which may be issued in the aggregate and to any Participant upon exercise of options granted under the Plan.

(b) In the event of the proposed dissolution or liquidation of the Company, each Offering Period will terminate immediately prior to the consummation of such proposed action, unless otherwise provided by the Committee. In the event of a proposed sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company, or the merger of the Company with or into another corporation, each option under the Plan shall be assumed or an equivalent option shall be substituted by such successor corporation or a parent or subsidiary of such successor corporation, unless the Committee determines, in the exercise of its sole discretion and in lieu of such assumption or substitution, that the Participant shall have the right to exercise the option as to all of the optioned stock, including shares as to which the option would not otherwise be exercisable. If the Committee makes an option fully exercisable in lieu of assumption or substitution in the event of a merger or sale of assets, the Committee shall notify the Participant that the option shall be fully exercisable for a stated period, which shall not be less than 10 days from the date of such notice, and the option will terminate upon the expiration of such period.

(c) In all cases, the Committee shall have full discretion to exercise any of the powers and authority provided under this Section 13, and the Committee's actions hereunder shall be final and binding on all Participants. No fractional shares of stock shall be issued under the Plan pursuant to any adjustment authorized under the provisions of this Section 13.

14. Amendment of the Plan.

The Board may at any time, or from time to time, amend the Plan in any respect; provided, however, that the Plan may not be amended in any way that will cause rights issued under the Plan to fail to meet the requirements for employee stock purchase plans as defined in Section 423 of the Code or any successor thereto, including, without limitation, shareholder approval, if required.

15. Termination of the Plan.

The Plan and all rights of Eligible Employees hereunder shall terminate:

(a) on the Exercise Date that Participants become entitled to purchase a number of shares greater than the number of reserved shares remaining available for purchase under the Plan; or

(b) at any time, at the discretion of the Board.

In the event that the Plan terminates under circumstances described in Section 15(a) above, reserved shares remaining as of the termination date shall be sold to Participants on a pro rata basis.

16. Notices.

All notices or other communications by a Participant to the Company under or in connection with the Plan shall be deemed to have been duly given when received in the form specified by the Company at the location, or by the person, designated by the Company for the receipt thereof.

17. Shareholder Approval.

The Plan shall be subject to approval by the shareholders of the Company within twelve months after the date the Plan is adopted by the Board of Directors. If such shareholder approval is not obtained prior to the first Exercise Date, the Plan shall be null and void and all Participants shall be deemed to have withdrawn all payroll deductions credited to their accounts on such Exercise Date pursuant to Section 10.

18. Conditions Upon Issuance of Shares.

(a) The Plan, the grant and exercise of options to purchase shares of Common Stock under the Plan, and the Company's obligation to sell and deliver shares upon the exercise of options to purchase shares shall be subject to all applicable federal, state and foreign laws, rules and regulations, and to such approvals by any regulatory or governmental agency as may, in the opinion of counsel for the Company, be required. Notwithstanding anything in the Plan to the contrary, share certificates shall not be delivered to Participants until the later of (i) the date on which the applicable holding period to avoid a disqualifying disposition (within the meaning of Code Section 421) expires, or (ii) the date that a Participant specifically requests a certificate for shares purchased pursuant to the Plan.

(b) The Company may make such provisions, as it deems appropriate, for withholding by the Company pursuant to all applicable tax laws of such amounts as the Company determines it is required to withhold in connection with the purchase or sale by a Participant of any Common Stock acquired pursuant to the Plan. The Company may require a Participant to satisfy any relevant tax requirements before authorizing any issuance of Common Stock to such Participant.

[WMI LETTERHEAD]

June 18, 2003

Waste Management, Inc.
1001 Fannin Street, Suite 4000
Houston, Texas 77002

RE: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Gentlemen:

I am Vice President and Assistant General Counsel - Corporate & Securities for Waste Management, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), and have acted in such capacity in connection with the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), of 2,089,266 shares of the Company's common stock, \$0.01 par value (the "Common Stock"), to be offered upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") relating thereto to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 18, 2003.

In connection therewith, I have examined originals or copies certified or otherwise identified to my satisfaction of the Certificate of Incorporation of the Company, the By-laws of the Company, the corporate proceedings with respect to the offering of the shares and such other documents and instruments as I have deemed necessary or appropriate for the expression of the opinions contained herein.

I have assumed the authenticity and completeness of all records, certificates and other instruments submitted to me as originals, the conformity to original documents of all records, certificates and other instruments submitted to me as copies, the authenticity and completeness of the originals of those records, certificates and other instruments submitted to me as copies and the correctness of all statements of fact contained in all records, certificates and other instruments that I have examined.

Based on the foregoing, and having a regard for such legal considerations as I have deemed relevant, I am of the opinion that:

- (i) The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware.
- (ii) The shares of Common Stock proposed to be sold by the Company have been duly and validly authorized for issuance and, when issued and paid for in accordance with the Waste Management Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and subject to the

Registration Statement becoming effective under the Act and to compliance with such state securities rules, regulations and laws as may be applicable, will be duly and validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

I hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

/s/ John S. Tsai

John S. Tsai
Vice President and Assistant
General Counsel
Corporate & Securities

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the Waste Management, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan of our report dated February 14, 2003, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedule of Waste Management, Inc. included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2002 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Houston, Texas
June 12, 2003

EXPLANATION CONCERNING ABSENCE OF
CURRENT WRITTEN CONSENT OF ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

On March 25, 2002, Waste Management, Inc. (the "Company") announced that it had appointed Ernst & Young LLP to replace Arthur Andersen LLP ("Arthur Andersen") as its independent public accountants. Representatives of Arthur Andersen are not available to provide an updated written consent required for the incorporation by reference of Arthur Andersen's audit report with respect to the Company's financial statements as of December 31, 2001 and for the years ended December 31, 2001 and December 31, 2000 included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for its fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 into this Registration Statement on Form S-8. Because, after reasonable effort, the Company is unable to obtain Arthur Andersen's written consent to such incorporation by reference of their report, Rule 437a under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") permits the Company to omit Arthur Andersen's updated written consent from this filing.

Section 11(a) of the Securities Act provides that if any part of a registration statement at the time it becomes effective contains an untrue statement of a material fact or an omission to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, any person acquiring a security pursuant to such registration statement (unless it is proved that at the time of such acquisition such person knew of such untruth or omission) may sue, among others, every accountant who has consented to be named as having prepared or certified any part of the registration statement or as having prepared or certified any report or valuation which is used in connection with the registration statement with respect to the statement in such registration statement, report or valuation which purports to have been prepared or certified by the accountant.

As noted above, Arthur Andersen has not consented to the incorporation by reference of its audit report contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for its fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 into this Registration Statement on Form S-8. As a result, with respect to this Registration Statement on Form S-8, the Company's investors may not be able to recover against Arthur Andersen under Section 11(a) of the Securities Act or the lack of a currently dated consent may limit the time in which any liability under Section 11(a) could be asserted against Arthur Andersen.