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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 15, 2012

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LCSWMA Receives International Habitat Conservation Award

LANCASTER, Pa. —Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) recently received international recognition for its contributions to wildlife habitat conservation at the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) 24th Annual Symposium in Baltimore, MD.

WHC President, Margaret O'Gorman, recognized LCSWMA for its conservation accomplishments. "The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority is to be congratulated for its successful efforts towards habitat enhancement and biodiversity."

Additionally, LCSWMA achieved *Wildlife at Work*SM recertification for its inactive Creswell Landfill and active Frey Farm Landfill, demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing native biodiversity. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

"We understand the land on which our disposal sites are located is home to a variety of animals, plants and insects," says Jim Warner, CEO for LCSWMA, "therefore we believe it's important to provide native wildlife with biologically diverse habitats on which to thrive."

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As part of its community sustainability initiative, LCSWMA implements a detailed plan to guide land management at its disposal sites. Efforts include a focus on enhancing avian habitat, expanding a native wildflower meadow, identifying and managing invasive species, and enhancing/restoring native habitat on LCSWMA's landfill properties.

One of the keystone projects of LCSWMA's *Wildlife at WorkSM* program is the native habitat restoration project at the Chestnut Grove Natural Area. This project will restore approximately 170-acres of former agricultural land to native habitats, while also offering passive recreation and environmental education opportunities.

Work began at the Chestnut Grove Natural Area in early 2012 and will continue until through 2016. Over 2,500 native trees and shrubs were planted in parts of the natural area, with many more planned for the future. This area will also include large tracts of native grasses and wildflowers. Future endeavors include wetland enhancement, pedestrian walking trails, and a three-acre plot designated for tree seedlings planed by the PA Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation.

Those interested in learning more about LCSWMA's wildlife habitat conservation efforts or other community sustainability initiatives, may visit www.lcswma.org.

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LCSWMA is recognized nationally for its leadership in the industry and innovative approach to waste management. Its Integrated System consists of: (1) a Transfer Station permitted to handle up to 2,200 tons per day; (2) a 1,200 tons per day mass burn Waste-to-Energy Facility for the combustion of waste and production of electricity; (3) the Frey Farm Landfill, permitted for the disposal of 2,000 tons of waste per day; (4) a County-wide recycling program; and (5) a drive-through Household Hazardous Waste Facility. LCSWMA's mission is to manage solid waste and recyclable materials in an environmentally safe, reliable and efficient manner.

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. WHC-assisted wildlife habitat and conservation education programs are found in 43 states, the District of Columbia and nine other countries.