

WASTE MANAGEMENT INC
Form 11-K
June 13, 2012
Table of Contents

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

or

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from to

Commission file number 1-12154

WASTE MANAGEMENT RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

Waste Management, Inc.

1001 Fannin Street

Edgar Filing: WASTE MANAGEMENT INC - Form 11-K

Suite 4000

Houston, TX 77002

Table of Contents

WASTE MANAGEMENT RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE

<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	1
Audited Financial Statements	
<u>Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2011 and 2010</u>	2
<u>Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the Year Ended December 31, 2011</u>	3
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	4
Supplemental Schedule	
<u>Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held At End of Year)</u>	16

Table of Contents

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Administrative Committee

Waste Management Retirement Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Waste Management Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2011. These financial statements are the responsibility of Plan management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2011 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2011 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of Plan management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ McConnell & Jones LLP

Houston, Texas

June 13, 2012

Table of Contents

Waste Management Retirement Savings Plan

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2011 and 2010

	2011	2010
ASSETS:		
INVESTMENTS, at fair value:		
Plan interest in the Master Trust (Note 3)	\$ 1,450,035,365	\$ 1,440,403,471
Total investments	1,450,035,365	1,440,403,471
RECEIVABLES:		
Employee contributions	736,151	780,523
Employer contributions	514,990	544,058
Notes receivable from participants	64,898,032	61,601,180
Total receivables	66,149,173	62,925,761
Net assets, reflecting investments at fair value	1,516,184,538	1,503,329,232
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	(13,621,451)	(9,504,574)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 1,502,563,087	\$ 1,493,824,658

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Table of Contents

Waste Management Retirement Savings Plan

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Year Ended December 31, 2011

ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:	
Contributions:	
Employee	\$ 84,144,664
Rollover	4,201,822
Employer	51,706,635
	140,053,121
Transfers to the Plan	2,298,899
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	2,974,080
Total additions	145,326,100
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:	
Net investment loss from the Master Trust (Note 3)	15,735,465
Benefits paid to participants	120,852,206
Total deductions	136,587,671
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	8,738,429
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:	
Beginning of year	1,493,824,658
End of year	\$ 1,502,563,087

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Table of Contents

Waste Management Retirement Savings Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

1. Description of Plan

The following description of the Waste Management Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Summary Plan Description and the plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan available to all eligible employees, and their beneficiaries, of Waste Management, Inc. (the Company or WM), and subsidiaries (collectively Waste Management). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

Administration

The Board of Directors of the Company has named the Administrative Committee of the Waste Management Employee Benefit Plans (the Administrative Committee) to serve as administrator and fiduciary of the Plan. Waste Management has entered into a Defined Contribution Plans Master Trust Agreement (the Master Trust) with State Street Bank and Trust Company (State Street) whereby State Street serves as trustee of the Plan. Lion Connecticut Holdings, Inc., a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of ING America Insurance Holdings Inc. (ING), serves as recordkeeper.

Eligibility

Employees (as defined by the Plan) are eligible to participate in the Plan following completion of a 90-day period of service (as defined by the Plan).

Individuals who are ineligible to participate in the Plan consist of (a) leased employees; (b) employees whose employment is governed by a collective bargaining agreement under which retirement benefits are the subject of good faith bargaining, unless such agreement expressly provides for participation in the Plan; (c) individuals providing services to the Company as independent contractors; (d) employees performing services on a seasonal or temporary basis; (e) certain nonresident aliens who have no earned income from sources within the United States of America; and (f) individuals who are participants in certain other pension, retirement, profit-sharing, stock bonus, thrift or savings plans maintained by Waste Management. Certain United States citizens employed by foreign affiliates of the Company may participate in the Plan under certain provisions specified by the Plan.

Contributions

Participants may contribute from one percent to 25 percent of their pre-tax compensation, as defined by the Plan, not to exceed certain limits as described in the plan document (Employee Contribution). In addition, participants that are age 50 or older are eligible to make pre-tax catch-up contributions not to exceed certain limits described in the Plan document. After-tax contributions are not permitted by the Plan. Participants may also contribute amounts representing distributions from other qualified plans (Rollover Contributions). Waste Management matches 100 percent of each participant's Employee Contribution up to three percent of the participant's compensation, as defined by the Plan, plus 50 percent of the participant's Employee Contribution in excess of three percent of the participant's compensation up to six percent of the participant's compensation (Employer Contribution).

Investment Options

In 2010, the Plan, through its investments in the Master Trust, offered participants (a) five common/collective trust funds; (b) a Company common stock fund; (c) a self-managed account, which allows participants to select various securities sold on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange and NASDAQ; (d) six target retirement-date funds, which are also common/collective trust funds; and (e) a stable value fund, which includes direct investments and investments in common/collective trust funds, managed by Galliard Capital Management (Galliard). As a result of investment option changes implemented during 2011, at December 31, 2011, the Plan, through its investments in the

Edgar Filing: WASTE MANAGEMENT INC - Form 11-K

Master Trust offered participants (a) two common/collective trust funds; (b) a Company common stock fund (which is an Employee Stock Ownership Plan); (c) a self-managed account, which allows participants to select

Table of Contents

various securities sold on the New York Stock Exchange, American Stock Exchange and NASDAQ; (d) ten target retirement-date funds, which are also common/collective trust funds; (e) a stable value fund, which includes direct investments and investments in common/collective trust funds, managed by Galliard and (f) five mutual funds. With respect to the self-managed account, several restrictions apply and a minimum balance is required to participate. The Plan utilizes cash equivalents to temporarily hold monies pending settlement for transactions initiated by participants.

Each participant who has invested in the Company common stock fund has the right to vote the shares of stock in his or her account with respect to any matter that comes before the shareholders for a vote. Additionally, if a participant invests in the self-managed account, the participant has the right to vote the shares of any common stock held in the participant's account.

Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in their Employee Contributions, Rollover Contributions and Employer Contributions, plus earnings thereon.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's Employee Contribution, Rollover Contribution and Employer Contribution and an allocation of investment income and loss and expenses. Investment income and loss is allocated to a participant's account based upon a participant's proportionate share of the funds within the Master Trust.

Payment of Benefits

Upon retirement, disability or termination of employment, participants or, in the case of a participant's death, their designated beneficiaries, may make withdrawals from their accounts as specified by the Plan. Prior to termination, participants who have reached age 59-1/2 may withdraw from their accounts. Distributions are made by a single lump-sum payment or direct rollover. Distribution of accounts invested in Company common stock may be taken in whole shares of common stock or cash.

Participants may make withdrawals from their contributions, including certain earnings on those contributions, in the event of proven financial hardship of the participant. Not more than one hardship withdrawal is permitted in any 12-month period, and the participant is not permitted to contribute to the Plan or any other plans maintained by Waste Management for six months after receiving the hardship distribution.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants represent participant loans that are recorded at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income on notes receivable from participants is recorded when it is earned. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2011 and 2010. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the Plan administrator deems the participant loan to be a distribution, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded. Participants who are active employees may obtain loans of not less than \$1,000 and a maximum of 50 percent of a participant's vested accounts (excluding any amounts invested in the self-managed account) immediately preceding the loan grant date. In no event shall a loan exceed \$50,000, reduced by the greater of (a) the highest outstanding balance of loans during the one-year period ending on the date before a new loan is made or modified, or (b) the outstanding balance of loans on the date a new loan is made or modified. Not more than one loan shall be outstanding at any time, except for multiple loans which (a) result from a merger of another plan into this Plan, or (b) result from a participant's loan becoming taxable under Section 72(p) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"). Interest rates and repayment terms are established by the Administrative Committee. Such loans shall be repaid by payroll deduction or any other method approved by the Administrative Committee. The Administrative Committee requires that: (a) repayments be made no less frequently than quarterly; (b) loans be repaid over a period not to exceed 54 months; and (c) repayments, including interest, be made in equal periodic payments over the term of the loan and applied to principal using a level amortization over the repayment period. Prepayment of a participant's total principal amount outstanding is allowed at any time.

Table of Contents

Administrative Expenses

Master Trust administrative expenses, including trustee, recordkeeping and investment management fees, are allocated in proportion to the investment balances of the underlying plans and are netted against investment income. Loan administration fees are charged directly to the account balance of the participant requesting the loan. Administrative expenses are reflected as a reduction of Master Trust investment income and are included in Net investment loss from the Master Trust in the accompanying Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits. In 2011, Waste Management elected to pay certain audit and legal fees of the Plan.

2. Summary of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements of the Plan have been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Benefits are recorded when paid to participants.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements, and accompanying notes and schedule, requires management to make estimates that affect accounting for, and recognition and disclosure of, plan assets and liabilities and additions and deductions to/from net assets available for benefits. These estimates must be made because certain information used is dependent on future events, cannot be calculated with a high degree of precision from available data or simply cannot be readily calculated based on generally accepted methods. In some cases, these estimates are particularly difficult to determine and management must exercise significant judgment. Actual results could differ materially from the estimates and assumptions used in the preparation of the financial statements.

Investments

The purpose of the Master Trust is the collective investment of the assets of participating employee benefit plans of Waste Management. The Master Trust's assets are allocated among participating plans by assigning to each plan those transactions (primarily contributions, benefit payments and certain administrative expenses) that can be specifically identified, and by allocating among participating plans, in proportion to the fair value of the assets assigned to each plan, income and expenses resulting from the collective investment of the assets of the Master Trust.

Corporate stocks, mutual funds and publicly-traded partnership interests held by the Master Trust are stated at fair value based on quoted market prices as of the financial statement date. The fair values of the common/collective trust funds held by the Master Trust are generally based on net asset values established by State Street (the issuer of the common/collective trust funds) based on fair values of the underlying assets. The investment options available within the Plan include a stable value fund that invests in fully benefit-responsive guaranteed investment contracts (GICs) and synthetic investment contracts (Synthetic GICs). In accordance with authoritative guidance issued by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), the fully benefit-responsive investment contracts held by the Stable Value Fund are reported at fair value. However, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. Accordingly, the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits present both the fair value of the fully benefit-responsive investment contracts and an adjustment from fair value to contract value to arrive at Net Assets Available for Benefits. The fair value measurement of these investments is discussed further in Note 5. Short-term investments (included in amounts reported as common/collective trust funds herein) are stated at cost, which approximates fair value.

The Master Trust records purchases and sales of securities on a trade-date basis and dividends on the ex-dividend date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan provides for investments in various securities that, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit and overall market volatility risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits and participant account balances.

Table of Contents**3. Plan Interest in the Master Trust**

The Plan investments are held in the Master Trust along with the Waste Management Retirement Savings Plan for Bargaining Unit Employees (the Union Plan). As of December 31, 2011 and 2010, the Plan's beneficial interest in the net assets of the Master Trust was 99.17% and 99.33%, respectively.

Neither the Plan nor the Union Plan has an undivided interest in the investments held in the Master Trust since each plan's interest in the investments of the Master Trust is based on the account balances of the participants and their elected investment fund options. However, the Plan's beneficial interest in each of the underlying investment fund options does not vary significantly from the Plan's beneficial interest in the total net assets of the Master Trust.

The net assets of the Master Trust consist of the following:

	December 31, 2011		December 31, 2010	
	Plan Interest %	Master Trust	Plan Interest %	Master Trust
Assets:				
Investments, at fair value:				
Common/collective trust funds	98.7%	\$ 505,108,820	99.2%	\$ 959,174,765
Stable value fund	99.3%	363,860,603	99.5%	344,899,671
WM common stock	99.6%	102,153,934	99.7%	111,844,911
Corporate stocks other than WM common stock	100.0%	16,796,395	100.0%	14,363,774
Mutual funds	99.5%	473,237,299	100.0%	20,124,526
Publicly-traded partnership interests and other	100.0%	982,550	100.0%	424,601
Total investments	99.2%	1,462,139,601	99.3%	1,450,832,248
Interest receivable		224,653		282
Cash, non-interest bearing		56,349		74,641
Securities sold receivable, net		31,161		
Total assets		1,462,451,764		1,450,907,171
Liabilities:				
Administrative fees payable		309,495		705,257
Securities purchased payable, net				140,366
Total liabilities		309,495		845,623
Net assets reflecting investments at fair value		1,462,142,269		1,450,061,548
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts		(13,712,956)		(9,548,644)
Net assets, fully benefit-responsive investment contracts at contract value		\$ 1,448,429,313		\$ 1,440,512,904

Table of Contents

Respective interests in the net assets of the Master Trust by the Plan and the Union Plan are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
Net assets reflecting investments at fair value:		
Plan interest	\$ 1,450,035,365	\$ 1,440,403,471
Union Plan interest	12,106,904	9,658,077
Total	\$ 1,462,142,269	\$ 1,450,061,548
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts:		
Plan interest	\$ (13,621,451)	\$ (9,504,574)
Union Plan interest	(91,505)	(44,070)
Total	\$ (13,712,956)	\$ (9,548,644)
Net assets, fully benefit-responsive investment contracts at contract value:		
Plan interest	\$ 1,436,413,914	\$ 1,430,898,897
Union Plan interest	12,015,399	9,614,007
Total	\$ 1,448,429,313	\$ 1,440,512,904

The Master Trust's investments that represented 5% or more of net assets are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
WM Common Stock	\$ 102,153,934	\$ 111,844,911
Stable Value Fund (at contract value)*	350,147,647	335,351,027
Vanguard Institutional Total Stock Market Index Fund	207,321,065	
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund	89,037,623	
JPMorgan Chase Bank SmartRetirement 2020 Fund	142,119,248	
JPMorgan Chase Bank SmartRetirement 2030 Fund	152,725,372	
SSgA Active US Large Cap Core Fund		73,649,818
SSgA S&P 500 Flagship Fund		211,740,965
SSgA International Alpha Select Fund		98,821,660
SSgA Target Retirement 2020 Fund		147,046,688
SSgA Target Retirement 2030 Fund		157,279,639

* The fair value of the Master Trust's investment in the Stable Value Fund was \$363,860,603 and \$344,899,671 at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

Table of Contents

Changes in net assets of the Master Trust for the year ended December 31, 2011, are as follows:

ADDITIONS:	
Interest	\$ 3,707
Dividends WM common stock	4,177,714
Dividends other than WM common stock	8,415,889
Other income/(expense)	2,062,900
 Total additions	 14,660,210
DEDUCTIONS:	
Net depreciation in fair value of investments:	
Common/collective trust funds	19,704,566
Stable value fund	9,642,771
WM common stock	(11,742,627)
Corporate stocks other than WM common stock	(3,145,083)
Mutual funds	(42,068,551)
Publicly-traded partnership interests and other	60,123
 Total net depreciation in fair value of investments	 (27,548,801)
Administrative fees	(2,732,893)
 Total deductions	 (30,281,694)
 NET DECREASE BEFORE TRANSFERS	 (15,621,484)
TRANSFERS IN*	145,217,279
TRANSFERS OUT**	(121,679,386)
 NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	 7,916,409
NET ASSETS:	
Beginning of year	1,440,512,904
 End of year	 \$ 1,448,429,313
Plan interest in net investment loss from the Master Trust	\$ (15,735,465)
Union Plan interest in net investment gain from the Master Trust	113,981
	\$ (15,621,484)

* Includes contributions, rollovers, transfers and participant net note repayments/withdrawals of principal and interest.

** Includes benefit payment to participants.

Table of Contents**4. Investments**

The Plan's investments that represented 5% or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
WM Common Stock	\$ 101,729,473	\$ 111,487,778
Stable Value Fund (at contract value)*	347,811,153	333,803,273
Vanguard Institutional Total Stock Market Index Fund	206,391,687	
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund	88,359,674	
JPMorgan Chase Bank SmartRetirement 2020 Fund	139,343,317	
JPMorgan Chase Bank SmartRetirement 2030 Fund	151,071,343	
SSgA S&P 500 Flagship Fund		210,812,278
SSgA International Alpha Select Fund		98,381,268
SSgA Target Retirement 2020 Fund		144,591,189
SSgA Target Retirement 2030 Fund		155,947,779

* The fair value of the Plan's investment in the Stable Value Fund was \$361,432,604 and \$343,307,847 at December 31, 2011 and 2010, respectively.

5. Investment Contracts

The trust funds held by the Master Trust include a stable value fund that invests in fully benefit-responsive GICs and Synthetic GICs. The following disclosures provide information about the nature of these investments and how fair values of these investments are measured.

Guaranteed Investment Contracts GICs are contracts that provide a specified rate of return for a specific period of time. The fair values of the GICs included in the Plan's Stable Value Fund are measured by the investment manager using a discounted cash flow methodology at market rates.

Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contracts Synthetic GICs are comprised of (a) individual assets or investments placed in a trust and (b) wrapper contracts that guarantee that participant transactions will be executed at contract value. The investment portfolio of a Synthetic GIC when coupled with a wrapper contract attempts to replicate the investment characteristics of traditional GICs.

The fair value of the Synthetic GICs included in the Plan's stable value fund are measured as follows:

Fair value of individual assets and investments Individual assets and investments are valued at representative quoted market prices when available. Short-term securities, if any, are stated at amortized cost, which approximates fair value. Debt securities are valued by a pricing service based on market transactions for comparable securities and various relationships between securities that are generally recognized by institutional traders. Investments in regulated investment companies or collective investment funds are valued at the net asset value per share or unit on the valuation date. Any accrued interest on the underlying investments is also included as a component of the fair value of those investments.

Fair value of wrapper contracts The fair value of wrapper contracts is determined using the income approach discounting methodology that incorporates the difference between current market level rates for contract level wrap fees and the wrap fee being charged for the Synthetic GIC. This difference is calculated as a dollar value and discounted by the prevailing discount rate as of the appropriate measurement date. The interest crediting rates for the traditional GICs are agreed to in advance with the issuer. The interest crediting rates for Synthetic GICs are calculated on a quarterly basis using the contract value, market value, yield and duration of the underlying securities, but cannot be less than zero.

Table of Contents

The stable value fund's average yield based on actual earnings was 1.86% and 2.28% during 2011 and 2010, respectively, and its average yield based on the interest rate credited to participants was 3.08% and 3.16% during 2011 and 2010, respectively.

There are certain events not initiated by the Plan participants that could limit the ability of the Plan to transact with the issuer at GIC or Synthetic GIC contract value. Examples of such events include, but are not limited to: material amendments to the Plan documents or administration; changes to the Plan's competing investment options including the elimination of equity wash provisions; bankruptcy of the Plan sponsor or other events that would cause a significant withdrawal from the Plan; full or partial termination of the Plan; failure of the Plan to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA; any change in tax code, laws or regulations applicable to the Plan; and delivery of any communication to Plan participants designed to influence participants not to invest in the Fund. The Plan sponsor does not believe that the occurrence of any of these events, which would limit the Plan's ability to transact with the issuer at its contract value, is probable.

Contract issuers are generally not allowed to terminate GICs and settle at an amount different from contract value unless there is a breach of contract which is not corrected within the time permitted by the contract. Synthetic GICs generally are evergreen contracts that contain termination provisions, allowing the fund or the contract issuer to terminate with notice, at any time at fair value, and providing for automatic termination of the contract if the contract value or the fair value of the underlying portfolio equals zero. The issuer is obligated to pay the excess contract value when the fair value of the underlying portfolio equals zero.

6. Fair Value Measurements

Authoritative guidance associated with fair value measurements provides a framework for measuring fair value and establishes a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value, giving the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 inputs) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 inputs).

We use valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. In measuring the fair value of our assets and liabilities, we use market data or assumptions that we believe market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability, including assumptions about risk when appropriate.

Table of Contents

The following tables provide by level, within the fair value hierarchy, a summary of investments of the Master Trust measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

	December 31,	
	2011	2010
Quoted Prices in Active Markets (Level 1):		
WM common stock	\$ 102,153,934	\$ 111,844,911
Corporate stocks other than WM common stock	16,796,395	14,363,774
Mutual Funds		
EuroPacific growth fund	47,170,865	
Emerging markets fund	41,267,020	
Small cap investment fund	72,278,732	
Stock market index fund	207,321,065	
Bond market index fund	89,037,623	
Self-directed mutual funds	16,161,994	20,124,526
	473,237,299	20,124,526
Publicly traded partnership interests and other	982,550	424,601
Subtotal Level 1	593,170,178	146,757,812
Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2):		
Common collective trust funds		
Short-term investment fund (a)	1,305,176	1,672,227
Equity income investment fund (b)	38,515,869	
Growth investment fund (c)	40,815,024	
Target date retirement funds (d)	424,472,751	437,602,240
Small cap investment fund (e)		65,811,512
Large cap investment fund (f)		73,649,818
S&P 500 investment fund (g)		211,654,748
Bond market investment fund (h)		69,962,560
International fund (i)		98,821,660
	505,108,820	959,174,765
Stable value fund (j)	363,860,603	344,899,671
Subtotal Level 2	868,969,423	1,304,074,436
Total Investments of the Master Trust	\$ 1,462,139,601	\$ 1,450,832,248

- (a) This category represents a common/collective trust, and the investment objective of the fund is to provide safety of principal, daily liquidity, and a competitive yield by investing in high quality money market instruments. The fund's trust document requires fifteen days advance notice prior to redemption, and authorizes the fund's trustee to shorten this notice period at its sole discretion. At December 31, 2011 and December 31, 2010, the trustee had waived the notice period.
- (b) This category represents a common/collective trust that seeks to provide substantial dividend income and long-term growth of capital through investments in the common stocks of established companies. Under normal conditions, the fund will invest at least 80% of assets in common stocks and, in particular, those that appear to be underfunded and may be temporarily out of favor but have good prospects for capital appreciation and dividend growth. The fund's trust document requires ninety days advance notice prior to

Edgar Filing: WASTE MANAGEMENT INC - Form 11-K

redemption, and authorizes the fund's trustee to shorten or waive this notice period at its sole discretion. As of December 31, 2011, the trustee had waived the notice period for participants.

- (c) This category represents a common/collective trust that seeks to provide long-term capital growth and, secondarily, income. Under normal conditions, the fund will invest at least 80% of net assets in the common stocks of large and medium-sized blue chip growth companies. The fund's trust document requires ninety days advance notice prior to a redemption, and authorizes the fund's trustee to shorten or waive this notice period at its sole discretion. As of December 31, 2011, the trustee had waived the notice period for participants.
- (d) At December 31, 2011, this category represents common/collective trusts, and the objective of each individual fund is to produce risk-appropriate investment returns by using the following major asset classes: stocks, bonds, real estate, and cash or cash equivalents. Diversification is primarily achieved by investing in other collective trust funds maintained by JPMorgan Chase Bank, but may also be achieved by investing in exchange traded funds, exchange traded notes, derivatives, and other securities. Except for the target date income fund, the funds are age-based funds for investors retiring approximately at or near the year identified by each fund as its target retirement date. At December 31, 2011, there were no redemption restrictions on these funds for participants but each fund requires the Plan to provide sixty days advance notice to liquidate its entire share.

Table of Contents

At December 31, 2010, this category represents common/collective trusts, and the objective of each individual fund is to approximate as closely as practicable, before expenses, the performance of a custom benchmark index over the long term, while providing participants the ability to purchase and redeem units on an as of basis. Each fund attempts to achieve its investment objective by investing in other collective investment funds, managed by State Street, which have characteristics consistent with the fund's overall investment objective. At December 31, 2010, there were no redemption restrictions on these funds.

- (e) This category represents a common/collective trust that seeks to exceed the performance of the Russell 2000® Index over the long term, while providing participants the ability to purchase and redeem units on an as of basis. At December 31, 2010, there were no redemption restrictions on this fund.
- (f) This category represents a common/collective trust that seeks to provide a total investment return in excess of the performance of the S&P 500® Index over the long term, while providing participants the ability to purchase and redeem units on an as of basis. At December 31, 2010, there were no redemption restrictions on this fund.
- (g) This category represents a common/collective trust that seeks to approximate as closely as practicable, before expenses, the performance of the S&P 500® Index over the long term, while providing participants the ability to purchase and redeem units on an as of basis. At December 31, 2010, there were no redemption restrictions on this fund.
- (h) This category represents a common/collective trust that seeks to approximate as closely as practicable, before expenses, the performance of the Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index over the long term, while providing participants the ability to purchase and redeem units on an as of basis. The fund attempts to achieve its investment objective by investing in other collective investment funds managed by State Street, which have characteristics consistent with the fund's overall investment objective. At December 31, 2010, there were no redemption restrictions on this fund.
- (i) This category represents a common/collective trust that seeks to provide a total investment return in excess of the performance of the MSCI EAFE® Index over the long term, while providing participants the ability to purchase and redeem units on an as of basis. At December 31, 2010, there were no redemption restrictions on this fund.
- (j) The investment objective of this fund is to protect principal while providing a higher rate of return than shorter maturity investments, such as money market funds or certificates of deposit. To achieve this, the fund invests in instruments which are not expected to experience significant price fluctuation in most economic or interest rate environments. The fund primarily invests in investment contracts, including fully benefit-responsive GICS and Synthetic GICs. The fund also invests in the Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund G (Wells Fargo Fund), which has an investment objective similar to that of the fund. The fund uses its investment in the Wells Fargo Fund for daily liquidity needs. The participants in this fund have daily liquidity at contract value (except as discussed in Note 5), however, the trustee of the Wells Fargo Fund reserves the right to require a one-year redemption notice for the Plan to liquidate its entire share in that Fund. See Note 5 for additional information related to the Stable Value Fund.

7. Federal Income Taxes

The Plan has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) dated June 20, 2002, stating that the Plan, as then designed, was then in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. The Plan administrator and counsel believe that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code. If an operational issue is discovered, the Plan sponsor has indicated that it will take any necessary steps to bring the Plan's operations into compliance with the Code.

On January 11, 2010, Waste Management filed an application for a renewed favorable determination letter.

Generally accepted accounting principles in the United States require plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plan. The financial statement effects of a tax position are recognized when the position is more likely than not, based on the technical merits, to be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2011, there are no uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken. The Plan has recognized no interest or penalties related to uncertain tax positions. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The Plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2008.

Table of Contents**8. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500**

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500 as of December 31, 2011 and 2010:

	2011	2010
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 1,502,563,087	\$ 1,493,824,658
Amounts pending distribution to participants	(583,661)	(827,089)
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	13,621,451	9,504,574
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	\$ 1,515,600,877	\$ 1,502,502,143

The following is a reconciliation of the net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500 for the year ended December 31, 2011:

Net increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 8,738,429
Amounts pending distribution to participants at December 31, 2010	827,089
Amounts pending distribution to participants at December 31, 2011	(583,661)
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts at December 31, 2010	(9,504,574)
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts at December 31, 2011	13,621,451
Net increase in assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	\$ 13,098,734

Amounts pending distribution are recorded as benefits paid to participants on the Form 5500 for benefit claims that have been processed and approved for payment prior to December 31, but which have not yet been paid as of that date.

The accompanying financial statements present fully benefit-responsive investment contracts at contract value. The Form 5500 requires fully benefit-responsive investment contracts to be reported at fair value. Therefore, the adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts represents a reconciling item.

9. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right to discontinue its Plan contribution at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA.

10. Commitments and Contingencies

In April 2002, certain former participants in the ERISA plans of Waste Management Holdings, Inc. (WM Holdings), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in a case entitled *William S. Harris, et al. v. James E. Koenig, et al.* The lawsuit attempts to increase the recovery of a class of ERISA plan participants on behalf of the Plan based on allegations related to both the events alleged in, and the settlements relating to, the securities class action against WM Holdings that was settled in 1998, the litigation against WM in Texas that was settled in 2002, as well as the decision to offer WM common stock as an investment option within the Plan beginning in 1990, despite alleged knowledge by at least two members of the investment committee of financial misstatement by WM during the relevant time period.

During the second quarter of 2010, the Court dismissed certain claims against individual defendants, including all claims against each of the current members of the Board of Directors of WM. Previously, plaintiffs dismissed all claims related to the settlement of the securities class action against WM that was settled in 2002, and the court certified a limited class of participants who may bring claims on behalf of the Plan, but

Edgar Filing: WASTE MANAGEMENT INC - Form 11-K

not individually. During the third quarter of 2011, the court ruled in favor of WM and two former employees dismissing all claims brought by the plaintiffs related to the decision to offer WM stock as an investment option within the Plan. The Court still has under consideration additional motions that, if granted, would resolve the few remaining claims against WM and its Committees. Because these motions are still pending and other unresolved legal and factual issues remain, the viability of the plaintiff s claims cannot be predicted and, as a result, a range of outcomes cannot currently be estimated.

Table of Contents

11. Related Party Transactions

Certain investments of the Plan are managed by State Street, which is the trustee of the Plan. The Plan also holds notes receivable representing participant loans. Therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. The stable value fund is managed by Galliard, a subsidiary of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., custodian for the fund. Therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Additionally, a portion of the Plan's assets are invested in the Company's common stock. Because the Company is the Plan sponsor, transactions involving the Company's common stock qualify as party-in-interest transactions. All of these transactions are exempt from the prohibited transactions rules.

Table of Contents

Waste Management Retirement Savings Plan

Schedule H, Line 4(i) Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

EIN: 73-1309529 Plan: 001

December 31, 2011

Identity of Issue	Description of Investment	Current Value
*Notes receivable from participants	Various maturity dates with interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 9.25%	\$64,898,032
* Party-in-interest		

Table of Contents

SIGNATURES

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Administrative Committee has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

WASTE MANAGEMENT RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN

Date: June 13, 2012

By: /s/ Krista DelSota

Krista DelSota
Vice President, Compensation, Benefits and Human Resources
Information Management
Waste Management, Inc.

Member, Administrative Committee of the Waste Management
Employee Benefit Plans

Table of Contents

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit

Number	Description
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

18