

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 25, 2005

Contact: Sarah A. Stancliff, Director of Development and Communications 703-299-5139 x10

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
FOUNDATION (EREF) WINS BIG IN VEGAS**

Alexandria, VA - For many, Las Vegas is the nemesis of progress and good fortune since there are no guarantees in gambling. Coming home from Vegas a winner was a straight shoot for the EREF, however; the foundation learned that there *are* guarantees when generous contributors and enthusiastic bidders team up to benefit scientific advancement at the largest tradeshow in North America. The EREF held it's 11th annual Absolute Refuse Equipment Auction and Charitable Raffle as part of WasteExpo's 2005 events, raising over \$740,000 to benefit research and education in the solid waste industry. The auction events combine to be the most significant fundraiser of the year for the foundation.

Hundreds of participants gathered at the EREF booth space in early May, to support the foundation's mission and bid on prime refuse equipment. The brand-new equipment is donated by manufacturing companies belonging to WASTECH (Waste Equipment Technology Association), with other items and services donated by NSWMA (National Solid Waste Management Association) members. Winning bidders, donors, and the EREF all reap the rewards of this event; the bidders are thrilled to have the ready-to-use equipment at their fingertips, donors express pleasure and satisfaction in being able to further the mission of the foundation, and the EREF can look forward to funding important research and scholarships in the upcoming year.

In addition to the main auction, the EREF found success in its other events as well; an annual charity raffle and silent auction. A beautiful, vintage 1955 Chevy pickup truck was awarded to Tom Miller of Arlington, TX after his ticket was drawn from the 440 raffle tickets sold. The silent auction has also become part of the fun in recent years. A unique collection of sports memorabilia, sought-after event tickets, and leather jackets adorn a table that is open for written bids.

With over 425 exhibitors and three times more exhibit space than the closest trade show option, WasteExpo is the largest show in North America serving both the private and public sectors.

The Environmental Research and Education Foundation is committed to proactively shaping the future of municipal solid waste management through means including: furthering education, supporting scholars, promoting safety, collecting data, and advancing technology. As the only independent foundation in the US focused specifically on solid waste, the EREF faces unique challenges as they strive to marry empirical science and sound environmental policies. For more information on the EREF or how to participate in its auction events, please contact Sarah Stancliff at 703-299-5139 x10 or ssstancliff@erefdn.org.

###