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Green-collar careers

Matt Delnick, chief financial officer Greenstar North America

My company: Greenstar, based in Houston, is the largest recycler in Texas, as well as the fastest-growing recycling company nationwide.

How I make a difference: As CFO, I am also responsible for showing customers — and our company — that going green can be a successful business enterprise. We encourage municipalities, businesses and individual residents throughout Texas to recycle more, making a significant impact on the pollution levels in Texas.

The down side: Last year, the commodity market crashed along with the overall economy. Recycling programs that were profiting from the high commodity prices were hurt. We felt the frustration of our customers during this period and worked to create programs that will be sustainable through the ups and downs of the market.

The future: Our segment will likely experience much change in the coming 12 months, both in relation to continued progression of technology and in consolidation. We also believe that our national and local governments will continue to pass legislation around renewable energy and further elimination of landfill waste. It is also an exciting time for recycling in Houston. The City of Houston is piloting its automated curbside recycling program and will hopefully expand these services throughout the city.

Home and hobbies: I live in the Galleria area close to our headquarters. My time away from work is spent with my four children, on the golf course or coaching youth sports.

