



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MIRA EXEMPLIFIES COMMITMENT TO PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL WINS SWANA 2015 EXCELLENCE AWARD

HARTFORD, Conn. – The Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) has been named the winner of the SWANA **Bronze** Excellence Award in the Landfill Redevelopment category.

MIRA will receive SWANA’s Excellence Award for its entry “Hartford Landfill State-of-the-Art Closure and Solar Electricity Generating Facility”.

“The entry was for the final phase of capping and closure, and redevelopment of the MIRA Hartford Landfill,” said David Bodendorf, senior environmental engineer. “It is the first project in New England to marry a synthetic turf landfill cap and a solar energy facility.”

“We are pleased to be recognized nationally for our work in sustainable landfill redevelopment, said Thomas D. Kirk, MIRA president. MIRA is committed to the implementation of environmentally friendly and economically viable emerging technologies for managing Connecticut’s solid waste. This project and this award serve as evidence of that commitment”.

In 2014, MIRA completed a 35-acre state-of-the-art synthetic turf cap and one megawatt Solar Electricity Generating Facility (Solar EGF) atop its Hartford Landfill. Research on emerging landfill capping technologies was conducted by MIRA and its engineer, Fuss & O’Neill, Inc., in 2011. Several technologies were identified that could be combined with the construction of a Solar EGF, and in 2013, MIRA awarded a contract for a combined landfill cap and Solar EGF. The final phase included a 3,993-panel solar energy facility that can generate enough electricity to power about 1,000 homes when operating at full capacity.

MIRA’s winning entry can be found on SWANA’s website at <https://swana.org/Awards/ExcellenceAwards/2015Winners.aspx>.

The award will be presented at SWANA’s annual conference, **WASTECON**[®], on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, in Orlando, Florida.

SWANA’s Excellence Awards Program recognizes outstanding solid waste programs and facilities that advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound solid waste management through their commitment to utilizing effective technologies and processes in system design and operations, advancing worker and community health and safety, and implementing successful public education and outreach programs. Programs also must demonstrate that they are fiscally and environmentally responsible through their compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.

Originally operated as an open burning dump, the Hartford landfill opened in 1940 and has since received waste from more than 70 Connecticut municipalities. Capping of the landfill began in 2008 after it received its final delivery on Dec. 31, 2008.

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Today, with the cap complete, the landfill's carbon footprint is significantly reduced by the synthetic state-of-the-art closure and Solar EGF. With these systems in place, the Hartford Landfill exemplifies sustainable landfill redevelopment.

For more than 50 years, the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) has been the leading professional association in the solid waste field. The association serves more than 8,300 members throughout North America, and thousands more with conferences, certifications, publications and technical training courses.

The Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority ("MIRA"), the successor organization to CRRRA, is a quasi-public agency whose mission is to work for – and in – the best interests of the participating municipalities of the State of Connecticut. MIRA's [board of directors](#) and [management team](#) develop and implement environmentally sound solutions and best practices for solid waste disposal and recycling management on behalf of municipalities. MIRA serves over 50 Connecticut cities and towns. MIRA also operates [award-winning sustainability education programs](#) through the [MIRA Trash Museum](#) in Hartford. For more information about MIRA and its activities, visit <http://www.ctmira.org>.