



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2012

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SWANA Releases White Paper Highlighting Economic Benefits of Waste-to-Energy

Silver Spring, MD – The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) released a white paper titled “Waste-to-Energy Facilities Provide Significant Economic Benefits.” The purpose of this white paper is to illustrate the financial success of waste-to-energy operations throughout the United States. Waste-to-energy is a reliable and renewable form of energy that has become the basis for many of the most successful solid waste management systems in North America. More than 80 waste-to-energy plants throughout the United States have allowed municipalities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and waste to landfills, while providing significant financial benefits to their communities.

The paper highlights a number of economic benefits communities achieve by investing in waste-to-energy such as additional revenues generated from the sale of recovered metals and renewable energy. These revenue streams have been used to fund other solid waste activities as well as loan re-payment.

“This paper demonstrates the positive economic performance of many waste-to-energy facilities over several decades,” said John H. Skinner, Ph.D. SWANA Executive Director and CEO. “Other municipalities considering this technology across North America can have confidence that they can be operated in an environmentally sound manner and can actually represent an economic asset to the community,” Skinner added.

In conjunction with the release of this white paper, SWANA’s Applied Research Foundation (ARF) will be releasing a report entitled, “The Economic Development Benefits of Waste-to-Energy Facilities.” This report surveys the solid waste systems in Honolulu, Hawaii, and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and concludes that properly managed waste-to-energy facilities offer an array of financial benefits to the communities that utilize them.

A copy of the ARF report will be available in February 2012.

A copy of the white paper can be found [here](#).

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About SWANA:

For 50 years, the Solid Waste Association of North America, SWANA, has been the leading professional association in the solid waste management field. SWANA's mission is "to advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste." SWANA serves nearly 8,000 members and thousands more industry professionals with technical conferences, certifications, publications and a large offering of technical training courses.