

# Grand Opening of Solar array

at Hartford Landfill

September 4, 2014





The Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) has built the first landfill-based solar energy-generating facility in Connecticut atop the capped Hartford Landfill. On Thursday, September 4, 2014, MIRA celebrated the grand opening of this facility, which will generate up to one megawatt of electricity, enough to power about 1,000 homes when operating at full capacity.





Helping to kick off the Grand Opening were (From left), MIRA President Thomas D. Kirk, DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee, Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra, MIRA Chairman Don Stein, Hartford Assistant Director Public Works Marilyn Cruz-Aponte and Hartford City Councilman Raul De Jesus, Jr.



The capping of the Hartford Landfill and installation of the solar energy-generating facility showcase the collaboration between MIRA and the City of Hartford. Members of MIRA's Board of Directors celebrate this collaboration with Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra.





Project Manager and MIRA Senior Environmental Engineer David Bodendorf discusses the project with Ken Beiser, Managing Director of Tecta Solar and former CRRA Board Member Dot Kelly.



“This represents an important marriage between the dual responsibilities of the environmental policymakers in Connecticut particularly solid waste management and renewable energy,” said MIRA President Tom Kirk in his welcoming remarks. “We wedded those together today, by using state of the art renewable technology to generate electricity on top of a state of the art closed landfill.”



During his speech, MIRA chairman Don Stein, who is also the First Selectman of Barkhamsted, emphasized the importance of MIRA's commitment to renewable energy. "We are proud of MIRA's bringing this innovative renewable energy project to fruition," said Chairman Stein. "When we began capping the landfill seven years ago, we literally laid the groundwork for this facility. Today the landfill is safely, completely enclosed and we're generating clean, renewable power."





“Today marks a new era for the Hartford Landfill, transforming it into a real example of innovation and a forward thinking approach to energy and environmental issues,” said DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee. “We applaud the City of Hartford and MIRA for the vision they had to develop the first solar array on a closed landfill in Connecticut and for their overall commitment to be a clean energy leader.”





“The landfill, which for years was a sore subject for north-end residents, is now showing us the way to the future,” said Hartford Mayor Segarra. “Generating solar power is just the first of many innovative uses we’re planning for this land, projects that will benefit everyone in Hartford.”



The ceremonial switch is thrown by DEEP Commissioner Robert Klee; MIRA Chairman and First Selectman of Barkhamsted Donald Stein; Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra; and Hartford Councilman Raul De Jesus Jr.





MIRA President Tom Kirk closed the event by lifting a bottle of glass cleaner and jokingly invited all attendees to assist with weekly solar panel maintenance activities.