



SWANA[®]

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
of North America

June 1, 2010

Nickolas J. Themelis
Director
Earth Engineering Center (EEC)
Columbia University
918 S.W. Mudd, Mail Code 4711500
West 120th St.
New York, NY 10027

Dear Professor Themelis,

The International Board of Directors of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) has reviewed the report *The Importance of Landfill Gas Capture and Utilization in the U.S.* authored by EEC Research Associate Patrick Sullivan, Senior Vice President SCS Engineers. This report was brought to the Board's attention by a member representing SWANA's Landfill Gas Management Technical Division, who requested that the Board issue a statement in support of the report. The Landfill Gas Division is comprised of over 600 SWANA members and is widely recognized as a premier technical and scientific authority on landfill gas recovery, utilization and management.

Consequently the report was sent out to for review and comment to all 67 members of the Board as well as to the executive committees of SWANA's seven Technical Divisions. Based on this review the Board has approved the following statements concerning the report:

After review by the International Board of Directors and Technical Divisions, SWANA concludes that this report presents a valid representation of the state-of-the-art of landfill gas capture and recovery as practiced in the U.S.

SWANA also endorses certain conclusions of the report as being fully consistent with SWANA's mission and policies. Specifically we agree that organics diversion, composting, and/or other waste management options, which are sometimes viewed as alternatives to landfills, are more properly considered as complementary waste management tools. Furthermore, all such practices must be judged on their own merits, including cost-effectiveness, environmental impacts and operational efficiency. Finally we agree that progress in lowering greenhouse gas emissions is best achieved by a concerted, integrated approach that employs all available technologies and methods, including reuse, recycling, composting, waste-to-energy, and landfilling with capture of landfill gas.





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SWANA congratulates the author for his comprehensive and diligent review of the international literature in preparing this report and the Earth Engineering Center for their thoughtful input and review. We believe that it will advance the technical and scientific understanding of the significant environmental benefits of landfill gas recovery and utilization and its important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Skinner, Ph.D.
Executive Director and CEO

cc. Patrick Sullivan

