



Indiana Association of
Cities and Towns

PRESS RELEASE

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"The Official Voice of Municipal Government in Indiana"

Town of Munster Wins State Community Achievement Award

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) announced that the Town of Munster has been named a **2013 IACT Community Achievement Award** winner for its Waste to Energy Project. The Town of Munster will receive its award during the Annual Awards Luncheon, Monday, October 7, at the 2013 IACT Annual Conference & Exhibition in Indianapolis, Ind.

The town is being honored for its waste to energy project that takes methane gas from Centennial Park, a former landfill, and converts the gas to energy. Munster's plant opened in November 2012, becoming the first municipally-owned landfill in Indiana to construct and operate this kind of system. The electricity generated from the plant is placed directly into the local utility grid and sold to NIPSCO (the local utility), resulting in added revenue for the Town. As a result of leveraging the \$2.5 million federal grant and additional TIF funds, the Town will see a reduction in operational expenses for more than 20 years at no cost to residential taxpayers, all while reducing their ecological footprint for many more years to come.

"When I hear about projects such as Munster's waste to energy initiative, I am completely energized by the limitless creativity found in municipal government. To take an old landfill and make it into a beautiful public space is visionary. To then develop that space into a revenue-generating, environmentally responsible endeavor is inspiring," said IACT Executive Director and CEO Matt Greller.

In its 37th year, the IACT Annual Awards program, presented by Umbaugh, recognizes communities and individuals in municipal government for excellence and outstanding achievement. A nine-



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member panel of qualified judges selected this year's winners from a competitive field of nominees from around the state.

Media are welcome to attend the awards luncheon. Please notify Jennifer Simmons (jsimmons@citiesandtowns.org) at your earliest convenience to secure a media credential.

The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) is a coalition of municipal officials who seek to improve the quality of life in Indiana through effective government, and is a member of the National League of Cities. Founded in 1891, IACT is one of the oldest state municipal organizations in the country, with 470 cities and towns as members. IACT advocates for municipalities as the official voice of municipal government in Indiana, and promotes good government through education, training and leadership.

Conference Facts:

2013 IACT Annual Conference and Exhibition

October 6-8, 2013

JW Marriott, Indianapolis

Attendance: 800 (pending final registration count)

Further information: www.citiesandtowns.org