

## Thelen Sand & Gravel's Antioch Pit Receives IAAP's First Sustainability Award

Thelen Sand & Gravel is primarily a land company utilizing its property for mining, farming and composting. Ultimately, the land awaits its final uses such as individual homes and recreational areas. The IAAP Sustainability Award was granted to the company for activities undertaken before mining, during mining and after reclamation, the most unique of these being solar energy generation.

"It's a sustainable use that fits in with our family's sustainable culture", according to the company's president, Steve Thelen. "We are all about preparing the next generation for their success, not for my success or my generation's success."



The solar field installation at the mine site in Antioch, Illinois, is a new repurposing and sustainable venture by the company. The 7.5 acre solar field was previously mined, used as a certified Clean Construction and Demolition Debris site and is now reclaimed land for a consumable, renewable energy resource.

Capable of producing about 30% of the annual power needed for the mine's operations, this is one of the largest "behind the meter" solar projects in Illinois. During the estimated lifespan of thirty years, the 1,996.5 kWdc (1850 kWac) facility with 7,260 solar panels will generate about 72 GWh of electricity (2.6 GWh / year). Additionally, over the life of the solar field, estimates have been calculated indicating Carbon Dioxide emissions reduction of 54,900 tons (the equivalent of 1,276,500 trees being planted) and landfill waste reduction of 17,800 tons.

Thelen Sand & Gravel is committed to managing its environmental impact as an integral part of daily operations while striving to maintain business practices, land stewardship and reclamation techniques that are beneficial for the community, natural habitats and incorporate and utilize the "4 R's": Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Reclaim.

Learn more about this project from the people most responsible for its success by watching this YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/P8-P3p448zg>

The IAAP's Sustainability Committee developed this award to recognize a member mining or processing facility or an associate member company that has identified ways and implemented solutions to increase product, service and vendor efficiency, and/or reduce energy demands and negative environmental impact and improve employee and community satisfaction.



Steve Thelen accepts the award from Maryrose Ramacci, Sustainability Committee Chair