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East Central Iowa Council of Governments Receives National Association of Development Organizations 2016 Innovation Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) based in Cedar Rapids, IA has received a 2016 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for their USDA Solid Waste Management Project.

The USDA Solid Waste Management Project was created to provide technical assistance and training to rural landfills in ECICOG's region. The program consists of regular staff trainings on safety and operations, Household Hazardous Materials program promotion, and the development of a protocol for maintaining required documentation at each solid waste facility. The goals of the program are to promote sound landfill and safety practices, increase diversion of hazardous materials to protect the water supply, reduce the impact of landfill operations, retain landfill employees, and improve landfill planning and management of rural solid waste facilities.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were honored during NADO's 2016 Annual Training Conference, held October 15-18 in San Antonio, Texas. The 2016 class of award recipients consists of 96 projects spanning 28 states. These projects are presented in an interactive "Story Map" developed by NADO and Esri and include project summaries, funding information, and partners. The Story Map is available online at: <https://www.nado.org/innovation-awards/>.

"Since 1986 through its Innovation Awards program, NADO has recognized the transformative work regional development organizations perform every day. Award-winning projects showcase best practices across the country in regional development that support prosperous communities, stronger local economies, and improved quality of life for residents," said 2015-2016 NADO Board President Jeffrey Kiely, Executive Director of the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments, located in Gallup, New Mexico.

For more information about this award-winning project, contact Alicia Presto at alicia.presto@ecicog.org.

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Since 1967 the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has provided advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic, and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.