

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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**Sarnafil Receives Environmental Merit Award from U.S. EPA Region 1**  
*Company recognized for its exceptional work and commitment to the environment*

Canton, MA – May 31, 2005 – Sarnafil Inc., a leading manufacturer of high quality vinyl roofing and waterproofing systems, was presented with an Environmental Merit Award by Robert W. Varney, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in recognition of exceptional work and commitment to the environment. The Merit Award was presented at a public ceremony in Boston's historic Faneuil Hall.

Sarnafil was awarded meritorious recognition for its manufacturing commitment and promotional advocacy in support of its Public/Private Partnership with EPA and the ENERGY STAR® Roof Products Program.

The company was recognized for successfully raising awareness and informing New England's building code development bodies and state department of environment officials about the air quality and energy efficiency benefits of durable, ENERGY STAR-labeled roofs.

"We are honored to receive this prestigious award from Administrator Varney and the EPA", says Brian Whelan, president & CEO of Sarnafil Inc. "Sarnafil has championed its cooperative, ENERGY STAR partnership to create targeted awareness campaigns that are now successfully taking root in New England."

The EPA offers Voluntary Stationary Source Emission Reduction Credit to states via their State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to encourage development strategies prescribed to meet or exceed air quality thresholds. Sarnafil's roofing products optimize the prescribed remedy sought by SIPs and contribute, significantly, to achieving regional air quality compliance.

Sarnafil is a manufacturer of durable, time-tested, and energy efficient roofing materials that are commonly installed on commercial, industrial, educational, and government facilities. Sarnafil

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promotes the environmental benefits of its highly reflective roofing products under The EnergySmart Roof® brand name. In partnership with EPA, Sarnafil has helped raise awareness of domestic energy and environmental policies that have been formulated in Washington, DC and are now being dispatched regionally and locally to reduce commercial sector energy demand, mitigate urban heat islands and improve air quality.

Cool roofs, such as the EnergySmart Roof, reflect the sun's energy before it is absorbed. This reduces the heat gain within buildings and enhances the R-factor of insulation which can erode at higher operating temperatures commonly experienced with hot roof surfaces. Lowering the energy demand required for building air conditioning significantly reduces the demand on fossil fuel power plants and helps mitigate air pollution from the electricity generation facilities. In addition, subtle reductions in summertime ambient air temperature, as created by cool roof surfaces dispersed uniformly within an urban area, can also slow the formation of smog – according to joint research conducted by the EPA, the US Department of Energy and NASA.

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In describing Sarnafil's contribution, the EPA noted Sarnafil's commitment to its principles, and further commented on EPA strategy by stating that, "Once installed, reflective roofs passively provide a continuous energy saving component and do not add to smog or ground-forming ozone generation through heat island effects."

"The roof is the hammer in the tool box when it comes to building energy efficiency into the domestic infrastructure," says Kevin Foley, Sarnafil's manager of business development and government relations. "California is paving-the-way in re-writing its energy code with specific recognition of a roof's impact on energy conservation and pollution prevention."

"We are at a tipping point, and EPA's public recognition of our efforts is enormous," according to Foley, who has lead the roofing industry in advocating for the elimination of barriers in the Federal tax code that specifically discourage investment into roofing systems. "In light of the fact that roofs can have such an enormous impact, the existing Federal tax bias that discourages roof investment is silly. It discourages building owners from replacing their energy inefficient dark colored roofs.

Congress should change the tax code in the middle of the night before everyone wakes-up and realizes that our tax policy isn't aligned with our domestic environmental and energy policies."

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### About Sarnafil

Sarnafil Inc. is a subsidiary of Switzerland-based Sarna Group, a manufacturer of high-tech plastic polymers for a wide range of applications including roofing, waterproofing, and civil engineering. Since 1964, Sarnafil has manufactured more than 3.5 billion sq. ft of thermoplastic roofing and waterproofing membrane in Switzerland, China, and Canton, Mass. Sarnafil roofing and waterproofing systems protect some of the world's most valuable structures and treasures, including schools and universities, libraries, museums, hospitals, commercial buildings, and Olympic stadiums. For more information about Sarnafil in the U.S., visit [www.sarnafilus.com](http://www.sarnafilus.com)



Robert Varney, EPA Region 1 Administrator (left) presents the Environmental Merit Award to Brian Whelan of Sarnafil  
*(High resolution photo available upon request)*

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