

# IPS Composting System: Halifax, Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia is one of the most progressive global leaders in recycling and composting. Regulations enacted in 1998 ban landfill disposal of glass and metal containers, plastics, paper and organic residuals. This mandate supported legislative initiative to divert 50% of waste from disposal by 2000. Landfills were also required to meet stringent design and performance criteria.

The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) waste management program utilizes the IPS Composting System in an innovative and remarkably unique application. Its primary function is waste stabilization rather than compost production. The process reduces the waste volume by about 40% and achieves the landfill objectives of pathogen reduction, vector attraction reduction, and odor control.

The community of 350,000 residents source-separate their organics, fibers, dry recyclables and residual wastes. A privately operated Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) receives the fibers and dry recyclables, and two privately owned and operated composting facilities process the organics. Residual wastes are sent to the Front End Processor (FEP) where further sorting occurs to remove recyclable materials.



The non-recyclable residual waste fragments (less than 5 cm) are shredded and stabilized for 21 days in an IPS Composting System in-vessel, aerated, agitated, automated process. Biological decomposition and pathogen destruction reduce waste volume and waste destined for landfill disposal. Stabilization prevents environmental problems commonly associated with landfills.

*Front End  
Processor Picking  
Line*



Halifax, Nova Scotia

Owner: MIRROR Group

Client: Halifax Regional Municipality

On Line: August 1998

Engineer: Porter Dillon Limited

Capacity: 200 MWTPD @ 50% Total Solids  
(450 cubic yards per day)

Processing: MSW Residuals

Facility Size: 14 bays 215' L x 10' W x 7' H;  
60,000 sf enclosed composting building;  
10,000 sf MCC and office

Odor Control: 30,000 sf biofilter

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