

# IPS Composting System: Mont De Marsan, France

## Challenge

Numerous small wastewater treatment plants service the Aquitaine region in southwestern France. In 2001, Syndicat Mixte Departemental d'Equiptement des Communes des Landes (SYDEC), the regional utilities authority responsible for managing biosolids and green waste, conducted a study to evaluate methods to handle their biosolids to address changing federal requirements, European Commission (EC) Directives and local farmers' persistence for higher quality biosolids product to apply to their sandy soils. The community searched for a solution that would be ecologically sound and satisfy the distinctive criteria for the region.

## Solution

SYDEC concluded that composting the biosolids with green waste offered the best overall approach to address changing regulations, as well as provide a boost to the region's growing agricultural and lumber industry with creation of better quality soil product. Farmers agreed and preferred using compost to improve the soil quality. The IPS Composting System was selected as the preferred technology and SYDEC commissioned the design and construction of a regional compost facility with financing from various governmental agencies.

## Results

Owned and operated by SYDEC, the ten wide-bay composting facility processes biosolids from 30 small wastewater treatment plants in the Region with shredded yard trimmings from area municipalities.

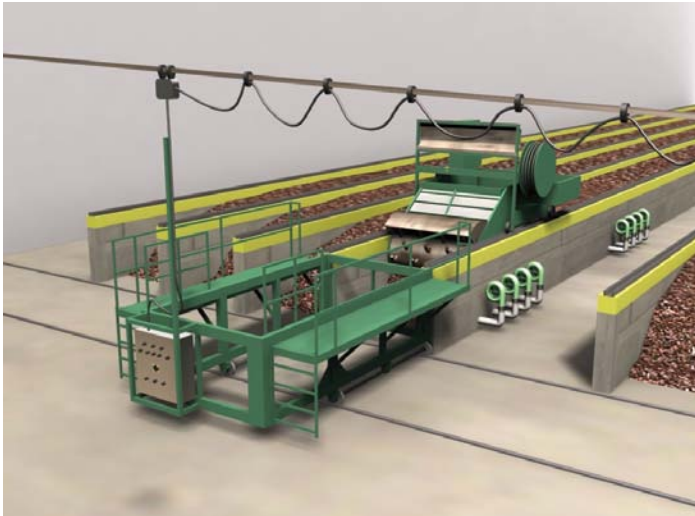
Trucks deliver dewatered biosolids to a covered structure designed for green waste preparation, feedstock mixing and storage. A front end loader layers the green waste and biosolids in proper ratio on the mixing floor. It then transfers the feedstock to the front of the composting bays where for a period of 18 days, an automated agitator mixes and moves the material from the front end to the discharge end of the bays. Air from the process area is ventilated to an odor control system consisting of a scrubber to reduce ammonia before being discharged to two biofilters. During the next phase, the composted material is transferred to an enclosed curing area where it matures for 28 days before it is screened beneath a covered structure. The last step of the process after screening, the compost is then distributed to farmers or stored in covered bunkers for up to six months.

In 2010, SYDEC installed 8,500 square meters of photo-voltaic solar panels atop the covered mixing/screening/storage roof structure to generate energy to sell back to the grid and help off-set energy costs.

Owner	Syndicat Mixte Departemental d'Equiptement des Communes des Landes (SYDEC)
On Line	December 2004
Engineer	Veolia Water Systems/OTV-SUD Ouest, Veolia Environment
Capacity	16,000 wet tonnes biosolids
Processing	Biosolids with Greenwaste
Facility Size	Ten bays, each 45 m long x 3 m wide x 2.44 m high; 4700 m <sup>2</sup> composting and curing building; 50 m <sup>2</sup> MCC and office; 500 m <sup>2</sup> amendment building; 2000 m <sup>2</sup> compost storage
Odor Control	Two chemical scrubbers followed by two 500 m <sup>2</sup> biofilters



## Case Study



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