

IPS Composting System: West Palm Beach, Florida

In 1991, the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) of Palm Beach County, Florida began operating the IPS Composting System as a pilot plant that expanded to a full size facility three years later. Florida's Resource Recovery and Management Act mandated a 30% waste recycle rate by 1994. In a county of nearly one million people, the legislation would require SWA to divert 120,000 tons per year of biosolids and yard trimmings from the landfill. To achieve this recycling goal, SWA opted to co-compost the two materials.

SWA conducted a competitive design and build procurement process and selected the IPS Composting System for its technology. The project began as a four-bay, open-sided demonstration facility that processed 30 tons per day of anaerobically and aerobically digested biosolids mixed with shredded yard trimmings.

The project demonstrated that the IPS technology could successfully compost a diverse range of biosolids with various solids concentrations. Satisfied with the results of the pilot, SWA authorized the expansion from four bays to 36 bays. The full sized plant was comprised of two enclosed buildings. One building housed twelve bays and the other contained 24 bays. The second building was divided into two wings of twelve bays each with the center section serving as the shared receipt and mixing area.



West Palm Beach 4 bay pilot demonstration

Named Second Nature Compost Facility (SNCF), SWA's plant continues to serve the County. More than 15 years after SNCF began as a pilot project, the plant produces nearly 120,000 cubic yards of compost annually. After 17 to 21 days in the bays, the compost is cured and stored for 60 to 120 days before distribution to market. The compost is used primarily by landscapers, soil blenders, and nurseries.



West Palm Beach 36 bay facility expansion 1994

West Palm Beach, Florida

Owner: Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County

On Line: October 1991 (pilot) and August 1994 (expansion)

Engineer: Beta Engineering, Inc.

Capacity: 540 cubic yards per day

Processing: Biosolids with shredded yard waste

Facility Size: 36 bays, each 252 feet long x 6.5 feet wide; two enclosed composting buildings with combined area of 121,280 square feet

Odor Control: Three biofilters with combined area of 39,530 square feet

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