

# Iqaluit Waste Management Project: Designing the Future of Solid Waste Management in our Community



Newsletter #1 April 2011

[www.iqaluitwasteproject.ca](http://www.iqaluitwasteproject.ca)

## Waste Management: Planning for Today and Tomorrow

The City of Iqaluit is in the process of developing a new Solid Waste Management Program that will meet our community's current and future needs. The City is facing a number of solid waste management challenges, including the City's rapid population growth (up 38% since 2001) and a landfill that has filled up. The September 2010 fire at the landfill underscores the importance of working together to find waste management solutions that meet both the short and long term needs of the community.

At the end of this process, the following questions will be answered:

1. What solid waste management options are viable for our remote Arctic community?
2. Considering all social, economic and environmental impacts, what is the best solid waste management program for our community?
3. How will we deal with special issues such as end-of-life vehicles, sewage-sludge and household hazardous waste?
4. What type of solid waste management facilities do we need to build? Where will they be located, and how big do they need to be?
5. How are we going to manage the challenges of our existing landfill, both before and after the new facilities are built?

### Get Involved!

Solid waste management is an important municipal issue that touches all of us every day. What we do with our waste affects both the health of our community and the health of our environment. Get involved and have your say! Share your ideas on what we should do to better manage our waste, or better yet, on how to avoid creating it in the first place. Our first **Open House** will take place on **Wednesday, April 13, 2011** from **7:30-9:00 pm** in the **Inuksuk High School Cafeteria**.

Want more information? Have questions?  
Visit us online at  
[www.iqaluitwasteproject.ca](http://www.iqaluitwasteproject.ca) or e-mail us at  
[comments@iqaluitwasteproject.ca](mailto:comments@iqaluitwasteproject.ca).



## Process Overview



### Ongoing: Stakeholder and community consultation

On-going engagement with stakeholders and the community will be conducted using the project website, interviews, newsletters, public meetings, and Council meetings.

## Iqaluit's Current Landfill: Background Information

Iqaluit's current landfill (see photo, below) has been operating since 1994. Initially, municipal waste was burned at the landfill; however, this practice stopped in 2002 with the purchase of a steel-wheeled compactor for use on the site.

Originally, the site was developed to manage surface water runoff and provide two distinct working areas for municipal and metal waste. It has since evolved to include designated areas for tires and household hazardous waste, such as waste oil, paint and batteries. Recently, landfill staff have also begun to separate electronics and appliances from the regular waste stream.

The current landfill is near capacity and new solid waste management facilities are required. These newsletters will be used to involve our community in the design of a new Solid Waste Management Program and selection of a new waste management site and facilities.



### Spotlight on Sewage Sludge

The solids that are filtered out of Iqaluit's sewage at the waste-water treatment plant (sewage sludge) are disposed of in a designated area of the landfill. In 2006, a pilot project was funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to determine if a freeze-thaw dewatering and composting process would be an effective treatment method for the sludge (see photo of composted pile, below).

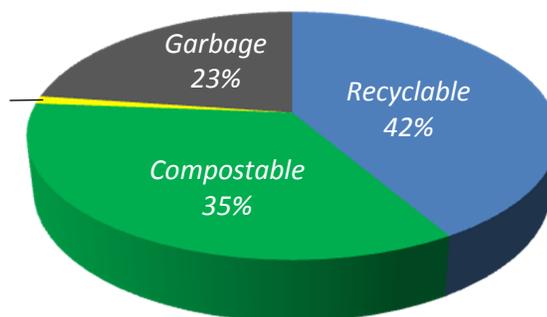
The results of this project showed that this process was successful in reducing the microbiological content of the sludge, making the resulting compost suitable for use as landfill cover material. Space limitations in the current landfill have limited the full-scale application of this process, but it will be considered in the development of the new Solid Waste Management Plan.



### What's in our Waste?

Data from a waste audit conducted in 2002 shows that recyclable and compostable materials make up 77% of Iqaluit's waste stream (see chart, below). Once the snow melts, a new waste audit will be completed to update Iqaluit's waste composition numbers.

*Hazardous Waste:*  
< 1%



### Project Contact Information

**Meagan Leach**

Director of Engineering and Sustainability  
City of Iqaluit  
E-mail: [m.leach@city.iqaluit.nu.ca](mailto:m.leach@city.iqaluit.nu.ca)  
Phone: 867-979-6363 ext. 226

**John Smith**

Senior Waste Management Specialist  
Trow Associates  
E-mail: [john.smith@trow.ca](mailto:john.smith@trow.ca)  
Phone: 905-793-9800 ext. 2533