

# Japanese delegation studies recycling methods

By WES STEWART  
CAPE BRETON POST

**SYDNEY** — Surprisingly Japan now incinerates most of its garbage, a method lobby groups concerned with the environment are anxious to change.

Four members of a Japanese delegation including two municipal councillors were in Sydney Friday to tour garbage recycling successes. They visited the solid waste facility, Green Island Recycling, the waste management facility, compost site and the former incineration site.

Council's Solid Waste Management committee members Clarence Prince, Jim MacLeod and Richard Fogarty gave a historic view of the debate that ensued when the CBRM changed from burning garbage to waste diversion and recycling with composting and the blue bag programs.

Sydney native Bob Kenney a solid waste resource analyst with the Department of Environment and Labour accompanied the delegates representing municipal government, a political science student and a representative of an environmental research institute.

He said there are 1,300 municipal solid waste incinerators promoted and encouraged by the government.

These tours are helping to educate leaders in government to change and move to a system similar to what is happening in the CBRM.

Kenney said this is the fourth such tour, as concerns in Japan rise over incineration and where the emissions, particularly dioxins and furans are landing.

"That is their disposal of choice



CBRM municipal co-ordinator for solid waste management Roschell Clarke explains how municipal waste is diverted for recycling at Green Island Recycling, Sydport, to Tokyo municipal councillors Mariko Murakoshi, left, Atsuko Azuma, and Atsushi Takatori, a director with the Environmental Research Institute in Tokyo. Japan uses mostly incineration to dispose of its waste. Wes Stewart - Cape Breton Post

in Japan, a country with 120 million people in a small area."

Kenney said they want to learn how Nova Scotia has changed from using many incinerators and open burning before 1996 to a policy where they are considered world leaders in composting, recycling and waste diversion.

"We compost significantly more than the rest of the country, our recycling rate

(Nova Scotia) is 70 per cent higher than the Canadian average."

Kenney said that translates to more costs for the municipalities, but the environmental and economic benefits from jobs and products are substantial.

Atsushi Takatori, director, research and planning, Environmental Research Institute Inc., Tokyo, found the tour beneficial.

Japan has set out a course of incineration to dispose of its garbage, and because of tradition it is difficult for the country to change policy and look at alternatives," he said.

The group also toured a worm composting facility in Tracadie, and a recycling depot.