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Salford University

Background

The University of Salford is ranked in the top 10 for teaching and is a multi-site campus serving the needs of the local community. With over 20,000 students and 2,500 staff, the University has a number of catering facilities dotted around the campus.

The problem

At the Student Union HQ bar and restaurant, there were eight 1100 litre commercial wheeled bins that were emptied daily. Graeme Holland, Facilities Manager at the University, wanted to find a safe and hygienic solution to their growing food waste problem - "The landfill charges were a major factor in our decision to look for more recycling routes. Food waste was becoming more and more of an issue. It was a blot on our landscape and the smell was attracting vermin to the skips in between collections." They set about improving the environmental sustainability of the University to reduce rising waste disposal costs, get rid of dirty, smelly bins which were attracting vermin and to reduce landscaping costs.



The solution

Trial of the A500 Rocket® In-Vessel Composter to ascertain suitability for the on-site recycling of food wastes.

The product

The A500 is the smallest in the range of Rocket® composters. Fully automatic and measuring 2.0m long by 0.7m wide and 1.4m high, it has a maximum capacity of 600 litres of mixed waste per week.

Results

The A500 Rocket® was a huge success and diverts around 19 tonnes of food waste from landfill each year. The operation has now been expanded to another restaurant on the campus with the introduction of the larger A700 Rocket® model. The two machines running in tandem will reduce food waste to landfill from the University by around 57 tonnes per year, saving associated methane emissions from the landfill waste and cutting the waste disposal costs for the university.



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Salford University (Continued)

The waste disposal area is cleaner and doesn't attract vermin due to the lack of food waste in the skips and landscaping costs have been reduced due to the supply of free high quality compost produced by the Rocket®.

The A500 Rocket® proved its effectiveness during the trial period and the test results from the State Veterinary Service (Animal Health) are clear of pathogens. The University of Salford is the first university site to achieve ABPR approval for composting their own food wastes. Regular samples are taken to ensure the process is maintaining efficiency in the destruction of pathogens.



What they said about us

Graeme Holland says "I think it's brilliant, the best thing is all food waste, cooked and un-cooked, meat and fish can be composted and the food waste can be treated on-site which is fantastic for solving our problems. When we show people the finished product they are amazed by the consistency and quality of it.

Eventually food waste will be banned from going to landfill and we're ahead of the game because we've already got the Rocket's® in place. All the compost is matured and used around the University grounds for landscaping which enables us to cut down on buying trailer loads of compost, especially in the winter, saving us money and reducing transport related CO2 emissions as well.

We are so impressed with the Rocket® system we are looking at expanding food waste recycling across the whole University. We have nine food outlets and are currently composting food waste from two of these. The University Catering Department is to become more involved and as our plans come to fruition we will be needing more Rockets®!"