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Royal Botanic Gardens - Sydney, Australia

Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens uses an In-Vessel Vertical Composting Unit (VCU) to process and convert green waste including wood and vegetation into high-grade compost.

Although the VCU technology was already being used at other sites in NSW, this was the first time the technology had been used in a botanic garden anywhere in the world.

Environment Minister Bob Debus joined former Australian of the Year and Clean Up Australia chairman Mr Ian Kiernan, to officially launch the revolutionary compost technology.

Mr Debus said that the unit nicknamed "Sylvester the Digester" could process at least a tonne of compost every day.

"The Royal Botanic Gardens send 10 truckloads of green waste off-site to be processed every month. Now they will process the waste here.

"This technology is cheap, efficient and is a clean green alternative to other composting methods."

The technology, designed around natural composting processes does not use artificial heating, air injection, or mechanical agitation.