

## Prestigious Recycling Award for Keenans

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009



Keenan (Recycling) Ltd of New Deer has won one of the most prestigious awards in recycling. The Scottish Waste and Resources Award for the “Best Private Sector Initiative for Demonstrating Innovation and Best Practise.” Four hundred people were at the Awards Ceremony in the sumptuous surroundings of the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow last week to see Keenans’ collect the industry’s top prize from television presenter Kaye Adams.

**The award was made for Keenans’ new (VCU™) vertical composting plant, the largest of its type in Europe. The facility takes a mix of kitchen food scraps and garden clippings, and turns it into organic fertilizer.**

The Scottish Waste and Resources Awards are allied to an annual two day conference and exhibition organised by a steering committee comprising of The Chartered Institute of Waste Management, Scottish Environmental Services Association, Keep Scotland Beautiful, The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Scottish Enterprise, Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee, Scottish Government, The Caledonian Environment Centre and Community Recycling Network for Scotland.

John Summers OBE Chairman of the Scottish Waste and Resources steering Committee said, “These awards demonstrate that there is a wealth of commitment, innovation, and entrepreneurial and skill in Scotland when it comes to sustainable waste and resource management, and we are delighted to be able to recognise some of the excellent work that is going on.”

Keenans' had reached the final along with two of the industries big players. Grant Keenan a director of the company said, "We did not expect to win, we were happy to be in the final three alongside two much larger companies. Our success is down to our vision, determination and team work. Together with my brother Gregor and all our staff, we strive for excellence in everything we do."

The Keenan operation at New Deer is also providing significant economic and environmental benefits in the North-East of Scotland as well as providing employment in a rural community for fourteen staff and a number of main contractors, local authorities are saving many thousands of pounds by recycling through the Keenan facility rather than paying high costs and tax to dump valuable biodegradable material in landfill.

The premium compost fertilizer produced by the new plant is rich in nutrients and is much sought after by local farmers. Orders placed range from five hundred to five thousand tonnes. Mel Keenan, a member of the family and a farmer himself said, "Many local farmers have used the green compost to good effect by using it to replace more expensive artificial fertilizer and to increase the fertility of their soils by raising the organic matter content. Some have been astounded by the results. One neighbouring farmer said to me he had farmed the ground for fifty years and had never seen such good runs of barley before."

Keenans' are scarcely keeping up with the demand and are about to add a third train of six vertical composting units for which planning permission already exists. This will increase premium compost fertilizer production by fifty per cent to 12 thousand tonnes per annum. This is an addition to 15 thousand tonnes of green compost made solely from garden clippings.

Further information from Mel Keenan

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