

Largest VCU™ site in Europe opens near Aberdeen

May 2009

A 25,000 tonne-a-year capacity in-vessel composting (IVC) facility has opened treating green and food waste collected from residents in at New Deer, Aberdeenshire.

The facility, which uses vertical composting units (VCU™) produced by Berkshire-based organics technology firm VCU Europa, is the largest of its kind in Europe.

Opening the plant, Keenan Recycling director, Grant Keenan, said: "It now gives me great pleasure to see the vision realised and a real sense of satisfaction to know that this new service will benefit the environment, the tax payer, the local economy and help reduce farmers' fertiliser bills."



The VCU™ facility at Keenan Recycling, New Deer

Keenan Recycling has spent £3.2 million expanding the facility. Prior to the VCU™ being installed, the facility was processing green waste. Now it can treat an additional 25,000 tonnes-a-year of food waste from the local area bringing the total site capacity to over 50,000 tonnes-a-year .

The compost produced is expected to be used for a variety of applications including agriculture, horticulture and landscaping.

Household food waste collections which will supply the facility are currently being rolled-out across Aberdeen; the city council have introduced fortnightly collections of commingled green and food waste to 19,500 homes and is aiming to collect food from 51,000 households by the end of this year.

Councillor Ron Clark, chairman of the waste management working group at Aberdeen city council, said: "Sending food waste to landfill is not only expensive in financial terms, it carries a significant environmental cost too.

"Recycling our food waste by composting it is a very easy and effective way to improve our green credentials and reduce the amount of rubbish being buried in landfill sites.

"I am proud that Aberdeen city council is taking the lead in food waste production and being so proactive in tackling this important environmental issue,"

Mr. Clark added: "We all have a responsibility for the environment, and it is incumbent on each of us to do what we can to reduce the amount of waste we produce, and reduce the amount of rubbish we send to landfill. Composting our food waste is a really easy and practical way of doing that."

EDITORS NOTES:

The **Vertical Composting Unit (VCU)** is a market leader in in-vessel composting. The VCU was the first in-vessel system to be accredited to the EU Animal By-Product Regulation and now has more in-vessel composting sites in the UK than any other technology.

VCU Europa designs, manufactures and installs VCU plant across Europe, with a proven track record of delivering successful projects for both the municipal and industrial markets. VCU Europa offers all aspects of project delivery including design, construction, planning, licensing and accreditation services. www.vcutechonology.com

The **VCU** has flexible capacity, 1,500-40,000tpa; no odour due to self-biofiltration; a vertical design which means a small footprint; low maintenance and delivers a high quality end product.

For further information contact

Peter Hallam

peterh@vcutechnology.com

VCU Europa Ltd, Abbey House, 1650 Arlington Business Park, Theale. RG7 4SA

Tel 0118 929 8266 / 07870 246366