

Scottish minister opens VCU™ composting system

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The Scottish environment secretary Richard Lochhead has officially opened a "cutting edge" vertical composting unit at a waste management site in Ayrshire.

The Vertical Composting Unit (VCU™), supplied by Berkshire based organic waste specialists VCU Europa, will be used to process organic commercial and industrial biowaste at Billy Bowie Special Projects' site in Kilmarnock.

The system is expected to divert approximately 10,000 tonnes each year from landfill and will help to fulfill a key aim of the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Policy by diverting biodegradable material, such as food waste, away from landfill.

Officially opening the facility, Richard Lochhead, cabinet secretary for rural affairs and environment, said: "I am very encouraged to see for myself the work being done by Billy Bowie in commissioning this ground breaking facility."

"It is good to hear that this plant will provide a service to both commercial and industrial biowaste producers and, in line with the Scottish Government's Zero Waste policy, it will significantly reduce the amount of methane producing biowaste going to landfill.

"It is particularly worthy of note that at this time of economic uncertainty, Billy Bowie has committed to this level of investment in Scotland. It is initiatives such as this that will help the country become a zero waste society and I commend Billy Bowie's efforts."



Owner Billy Bowie and Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead at the opening of the VCU™ facility in Kilmarnock

Billy Bowie Special Projects Limited is a well established Scottish company providing a broad range of services and skills to local authorities and industry throughout the UK. The Kilmarnock site is already home to a waste transfer station for sand, glass, wood, metal plastics and other general wastes.

The VCU™ is a computer controlled system, allowing various waste streams to be processed, including food waste, animal by-products waste, sludges and green waste, to be converted into compost.

The new facility brings the total VCU™ systems installed in Scotland to 4, and 12 in the UK & Ireland.

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.

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