



**ACCELERATED
COMPOST LTD**

A WAY WITH WASTE



UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD, Greater Manchester



I N S P I R I N G W A S T E S O L U T I O N S

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD, Greater Manchester

The University of Salford is a multi-site campus situated a mile and a half from Manchester City Centre that began life as Salford Working Men's College in 1896. Now serving the needs of the local community and over 20,000 students and 2,500 staff the University has a number of catering facilities dotted around the campus. Ranked in the Top 10 for teaching in the UK the University is about to embark on £150 million regeneration project involving and benefiting the local community and all faculties and departments within the university.

THE NEED

Recycling began on-site in 2002 with the segregation and collection of materials such as plastics, cardboard, metals, timber and paper. At the Students Union Head Quarters 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 escalator was a major factor in our decision to look for more recycling routes. Waste collection costs were rising and we wanted to keep these costs down. 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."*

- 1 Increase the environmental sustainability of the University
- 2 Rising waste disposal costs
- 3 Dirty, smelly bins attracting vermin
- 4 Reduce landscaping consumables costs

THE SOLUTION

TRIAL THE A500 ROCKET® IN-VESSEL COMPOSTER TO ASCERTAIN SUITABILITY FOR THE ON-SITE RECYCLING OF FOOD WASTES

The A500 is the smallest in the range of Rocket® composters. Fully automatic and measuring 2000mm long by 700mm wide and 1400mm high, it has a capacity of 600 litres of mixed waste per week. Rocket® fuel dosing system and temperature reader are also included.

It wasn't an easy process convincing every one of the benefits of recycling:

"There are so many negative associations with composting, especially regarding the smell. We are finding this is a huge learning curve to change these perceptions at the University but with the huge assistance of Scholarest, who are the providers of one of the major catering facilities here, we are managing to do this. When we show people the finished product they are amazed by the consistency and viability of it."

Along with Peter Camilleri, Zone Manager at the University who runs the Rocket® processes, Graeme experimented to get the very best out of his A500 Rocket®.

Peter commented, *"It's so well contained it provides the perfect controlled environment for us to maintain temperatures of 65-75°C for weeks on end and easily surpasses the residency requirements needed to comply with ABP1 regulations."*

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



THE RESULTS

Following the initial learning period Peter and Graeme have found that “*little and often*” is the most efficient way of feeding the Rocket®. Using a ratio of 1:1, food waste and wood chippings, maintains the high temperatures and produces a fine, quality compost at the end of the process.

“I think it’s brilliant,” Graeme enthused, “The best thing is there is no segregation of food waste. All food waste can be treated on-site which is fantastic for solving our problems.”

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 catering site 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 site and cutting the waste disposal costs of the university.

Collecting other recyclable materials has reduced the amount of bins necessary to contain the waste and the Students Union now only needs three 1100 litre bins as all the other material is recycled.

Cardboard from the catering facilities is one of the largest waste streams on site and currently five 1100 litre bins of cardboard are recycled each week.

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 high quality compost produced by the Rocket®.

Graeme Holland: *“Eventually food waste will stop 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 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 recycling food waste from two of these and the University Catering Department is as keen as Scholarest to become involved. As our plans come to fruition we will be needing more Rockets®!”*

1 Animal By-Products Regulations



OFF

The Rocket® In-vessel Composter is manufactured and distributed through **Accelerated Compost Ltd.** Head Office in Cheshire and representatives in Perthshire, East Sussex, County Wexford and Worcester ensure UK-wide distribution and prompt after sales service.

The Rocket® is currently being used as a solution to the food waste disposal problem for small scale commercial and industrial applications throughout the UK from Community Composters to Schools and Colleges, Hotels, Restaurants and Estates.



Accelerated Compost Ltd
Unit 4, Melville Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 2BN.
T: 01625 666790 F: 01625 666799
E: info@quickcompost.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales: 4330091
European Patent No: 1153902

www.quickcompost.co.uk