

Rocket Composting at Cotehele National Trust

The National Trust has launched an initiative to recycle the 'unusable' waste from the Cotehele estate and reduce the amount that would normally go to landfill.

For some time, the National Trust has been assessing the risk that climate change poses to its houses, gardens, coast and countryside as well as the wider environment. As the charity sees it as a real concern, it is working to develop ways to reduce its own environmental footprint and that of its supporters.

Toby Fox, National Trust Property Manager for Cotehele says:

'We are all concerned about the threat of climate change and as an environmental charity, we are doing as much as we can to reduce our own carbon footprint. We are thrilled with how the project is going so far and we hope to develop more ways to help reduce the impacts of climate change over the next few years'

Working in partnership with WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) and supported by DEFRA, the National Trust offered its 60 tenants on the estate, a free 330 litre compost bin and kitchen caddy.

This project forms part of a larger National Trust initiative to reduce the estate's carbon footprint. Funded by the Government's Sustainable Development Fund, all waste from the National Trust's restaurant and tea-room is also being turned in to compost by a state of the art 'Rocket Composter'. The Rocket Composter accelerates the rate at which the composting process takes place - reducing the process to weeks rather than months. The Rocket Composter will stop enough waste to fill a full-size tennis court up to the net, from going to landfill every year.

The National Trust estate at Cotehele is one of four estates now using the Rocket Composter, others include Nostell Priory, Stourhead and Craflwyn.

