

Offshoots a Rocket - Groundwork's East Lancs Community Composting Of Food Waste Using Rocket In Vessel Composter



Offshoots permaculture in North Lancashire, using Rocket In Vessel Composters, to treat kitchen waste from collections and a latest and most surprising project :-

Spring 2006 has heralded the beginning of our unique, scientific research trial into the possibility of 'In-vessel' composting of Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) Groundwork East Lancashire through the Offshoots Permaculture project is the only organisation in the country to have been given support by the Environment Agency and DEFRA to attempt this.

This groundbreaking research work has generated a lot of interest and as a consequence we have already been interviewed on Radio 4 and appeared on local TV news explaining our plan to design an environmentally safe way of dealing with this £1.56 billion national problem (DEFRA estimate 2005). We have also just secured our first tranche of funding for this (many thanks to Andrew at Lancashire County Developments Ltd) and we are investigating obtaining a patent for this innovative project.

Japanese knotweed is a non-native, invasive plant which grows just about anywhere and is wreaking havoc in the British countryside. It is a huge environmental problem which is usually dealt with by spraying with herbicides over three years or digging the plant and the surrounding soil up and then putting into landfill sites.

We cannot discuss our detailed future plans, as we are now subject to confidentiality agreements. We believe, however, that with the assistance of our academic partner ('Myerscough college') and our technical partner ('Accelerated compost') we may be able to not only find away of solving the this big eco problem but also provide ourselves with a sustainable income.



www.offshoots.org.uk