

Recycling Rates At The Tower Rocket - Scottish Hotel Composting On Site Using Rocket In Vessel

Composter

Whether approaching Crieff from Madderty in the east, or from the west along South Comrie Road, the Tower Hotel, East High Street, dominates the skyline. Over the past year, under the new ownership of Gilbert Edgar, recycling rates have "Rocketed" to similar heights.



Immediately on taking over the hotel last October Gilbert, aided by partner Fiona Clark (Community Waste Advisor with Perth & Kinross Council), targeted wastes for separate collection and recycling:

- glass bottles, cardboard & paper (uplifted by Perth & Kinross Council)
- cans (Can-Able free uplift)
- organic kitchen waste and garden waste (composted)
- vegetable oil (private collection)
- plastic milk bottles (Recycling Centre)

Within 3 months the hotel was able to replace the 1,100 litre Eurobin collected twice weekly with a 360 litre bin collected once a week.

Under previous ownership, vegetable waste was composted along with weeds, grass and bush trimmings in three New Zealand boxes at the base of the garden. The resulting compost, maturing after 12 to 18 months was, historically, dug into the vegetable plot at the beginning of each year. Now, aiming yet higher with their recycling efforts, Fiona and Gilbert have in conjunction with Scottish Organic Services, installed a Rocket® (an enclosed in-vessel composter) to accelerate, and sanitise, this composting process.

Vegetable residuals from food preparation in the kitchen are carefully separated and collected in small (6 litre) kitchen caddies lined with *BioBags* (100% biodegradable liners made from corn starch) that are removed at the end of each shift and placed in the Rocket® along with an equal volume of garden wastes. A small quantity of enzymatic "Rocket Fuel" from GOC Technologies is then sprayed onto the food residuals to ensure optimal microbial performance.

Since installation at the beginning of July the Rocket® has composted some 700 litres (weighing approximately 400kg) of vegetable kitchen residues; including garden wastes, a total of 5.3m³ weighing 1.4 tonnes has been processed (food wastes therefore constitute 13% by volume and 30% by weight).

Tower Rocket Produce Pictured

Food wastes composted at the tower are recycled using a Rocket composter, the resultant material reused in growing vegetables in a gardening area at the rear, the vegetables form part of the daily menu, what food waste there is from plate scrapings (not an awful lot as it's fantastic trust me !) is then composted using a Rocket Composter , the resultant material.....

A true, on site, cyclical approach, exactly the way we should all look at composting and growing.

