



### greenstar relocate Kildare composting facility

greenstar recently relocated its composting facility within Silliot Hill, near Naas in County Kildare. This facility was established in 2002 as a partnership between greenstar and Kildare County Council.

The facility comprises a 4-cell Vertical Composting Unit (VCU) which was originally located in the transfer station area at Silliot Hill. The transfer station location was temporary while Kildare County Council developed a dedicated 300 M<sup>2</sup> building and a 2000 M<sup>2</sup> composting yard with all requisite services – push walls, high doors/ceilings, drained floors etc. Kildare County Council completed construction mid-2004.

At this point greenstar tasked VCU Ltd. – the equipment suppliers – to dismantle, move, erect and commission the composting unit in its new location.

The feed-in hopper was located inside the reception building for Animal By-products control reasons. The unit was then recommissioned to treat biowaste at normal rates within 14 days.

The new facilities complement the VCU technology, providing complete compliance with the requirements of the Animal By-products Regulation and the site EPA Waste Licence. This includes reception area enclosure, clean/dirty separation, one-way-flow of materials, organised drainage, vehicle washing facilities, screening area etc.

The facility treats source segregated commercial and industrial wastes including material collected by a dedicated food waste collection vehicle. This material is composted at the facility and is used beneficially afterwards. Contact Conor McGovern, greenstar for more details.

### Marine Harvest Ireland open fish recycling facility

On November 29th 2004, the Minister for the Marine, Mr. Pat the Cope Gallagher, TD opened the Marine Harvest Ireland (MHI) fish waste compost recycling facility on the Fanad peninsula, North Donegal. This is the first composting facility in Ireland dedicated to processing fish waste into high quality compost for horticultural use.

MHI, internationally known for 25 years as producers of high quality salmon products with world class salmon breeding facilities, installed an in-vessel composting system on a site in Coolback on the Fanad peninsula. To date the project cost is €435,000 with projected further investment of €140,000 in 2005. The facility can produce about 800 tonnes per annum high quality compost.

In order to meet the requirements of the EU Animal By-Products Regulations (1774/2002), MHI chose a closed vessel composting system - the VCU system, designed and manufactured in New Zealand -giving maximum control and security.

MHI are also able to compost all of its broken pallets, cardboard and paper waste, rather than sending such waste to landfill.



At the opening L to R; Cllrs. Liam Blaney, Ian McGarvey, and Noel McBride, Niall Blaney TD, Minister Pat the Cope Gallagher TD, Senator Joe McHugh, Micheal Corduff, Udaras na Gaeltachta.

MHI Technical Manager, Catherine McManus says, "This commitment demonstrates that Marine Harvest Ireland and aquaculture operations in general continue to lead in the development of ecologically responsible solutions, including for waste management."

For further information contact Catherine McManus, Marine Harvest Ireland.



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# Thornton's Appeal Compost Plant Planning Decision

Conor Walsh, Thornton's Recycling

Westmeath County Council has refused planning permission for the tunnel composting facility proposed by Thornton's Recycling at Kilbride, near Milltownpass in County Westmeath. The facility represents a proposed investment of €6 million and is designed to process up to 90,000 tonnes per annum of both green and catering wastes using aerated tunnels and outdoor aerated static piles. Both Celtic Composting and Enviros contributed to the design of the plant.

The Council's decision was reached in September 2004 and listed three reasons for refusal, the first of which will be a major concern for developers of new composting plants. The reason decision stated:

*"The proposed development will involve importation of organic waste from outside the Midland Region and thereby contrary to Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan adopted by Westmeath County Council in September 2004."*

In their appeal, Thornton's Recycling argued that the facility is a compost manufacturing plant and should be permitted to source raw material from outside the Midlands Region. Also, as a waste recovery facility the site should not be subject to the Proximity Principle, as this only applies to waste for disposal not recovery.

The company points out that Irish local authorities would be wrong to prevent shipments of organic waste for composting in Holland or Germany, so why then prevent shipments of these wastes to composting plants in neighbouring counties?

An Bord Pleanála's decision is expected by end of February and could set an important precedent for the Irish composting industry. The Bord recently overturned Meath County Council's decision to refuse planning permission for the McGill proposed composting plant at Kilmainham Wood, Co. Meath. In granting permission, An Bord Pleanála's Inspector stated (Section 12.3 Development Plan and Waste Management Plan).

*"The proposed facility will accept waste from the four counties within the region and from outside it also. I would see no difficulty with this. Restriction of raw materials to waste from within the North East Region could jeopardise the economic viability of the facility. The proposed development is not a disposal facility, but is rather a recycling facility."*

Hopefully, for the future of composting in Ireland, these statements represent Bord Pleanála's current thinking on how composting fits into our national waste management policy. We await their decision.



Artists Impression of Thornton's Recycling, Compost Manufacturing Plant proposed for Kilbride

## Animal By-products Composting approval process

The Department of Agriculture and Food invited applications from the composting or biogas (anaerobic digestion) industry to seek certification to operate as required by the EU Animal By-products Regulation. Approval is required of all facilities treating Animal By-products, including catering waste. Applications were accepted until December 17, 2004.

Applicants indicated facility features, proposed feedstock's, processing standards, sampling procedures, cleaning procedures, hygiene measures, vermin control, HACCP plans and product traceability measures. These measures are required to ensure and to demonstrate ability

to comply with the the requirements of the Animal By-products Regulation 1774/2002.

The proposals will be considered and the Department expects that permits will be issued in 2005.

Cré submitted commentary representing the views of members on the guidelines issued and it hopes that these views are considered and applied. It also hopes that the adjudication process will run fairly and speedily and will recognise the need of the operators and the environmental needs of the country.

# Waterford City Facility services City and County

*Craig Benton & Andrew Walsh, Celtic Composting Systems*

2004 was a busy year for composting in Waterford City. Waterford City Council's in-vessel compost facility started operations in January to process materials from the City's residential brown bin programme. By the end of the year, the facility doubled its capacity through the incorporation of a similar brown bin programme rolled out by Waterford County Council in September. That's almost 30,000 households, making it the largest in-vessel facility currently operating in the country.

In addition to the residential organics, the facility also processes drop-off green waste from the City and environs in addition to commercial wood waste and limited quantities of commercial catering waste. In total, the processing capacity of the facility approaches 10,000 tonnes per annum. Going forward, an additional two acres on the site have been ear-marked for a further expansion to provide for additional composting capacity.



**Fig.1. The Mayor of Waterford, Alderman Tom Cunningham and The Minister for the Environment, Mr Martin Cullen TD at the opening of the Waterford composting facility.**

The facility incorporates a biowaste reception building, 20 in-vessel aerated containers, 16 aerated static pile (ASP) modules and a screening and compost storage building. CCS designed and built the facility and is operated by ONYX Ireland in association with CCS.

Typically, material processing involves an initial mixing and shredding phase followed by a 14-day period of high rate composting in the in-vessel containers followed by an 8-12 week period of maturation within the ASP system.

## Milltown, Tipperary composting facility opens

Milltown is a composting facility operating near Cashel in Tipperary. The facility, which opened in December 2004, provides services exclusively to *greenstar* and biowaste is currently being sent to it from the *greenstar* facility at Sarsfield Court, Cork.

The facility has full planning permission and a local authority Waste Permit.

After maturation, the material is screened, tested and prepared for beneficial re-use. The facility has applied for an ABPR license and we are hoping that the Waterford City facility may be the first in the Country to receive such a license in 2005.



**Fig.2. The In-vessel composting system at Kilbarry. In-vessel containers, aeration cabinets, manifold piping and the biofilter are illustrated.**

To date the bulk of the compost produced has been provided free to the residents of Waterford for horticultural use. The community has responded positively to this initiative and the facility has a steady stream of customers dropping off their green waste while being able to take home a bag of "Waterford's Own Premium Compost".



**Fig. 3. Bagging compost for public distribution**

Most importantly, the City and County's kerbside biowaste and dry recyclable collection schemes allied to the civic amenity initiatives are already netting landfill diversion rates above 40%. With continued effort, these recycling schemes could potentially achieve rates in the 50-60% range.

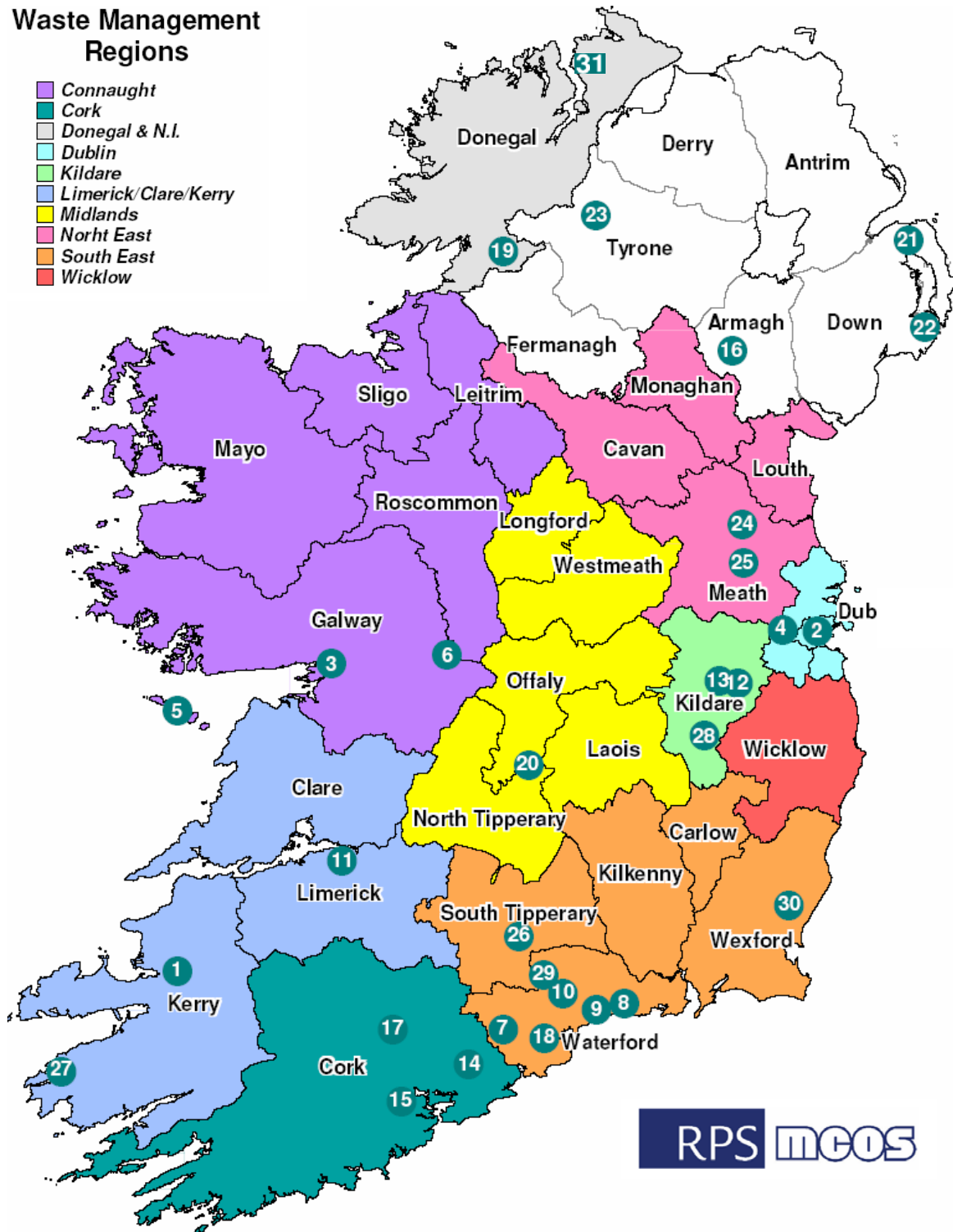
The facility has also sought approval from the Department of Agriculture and Food and *greenstar* are confident that it will be among the first in Ireland to be so approved.

All of the stabilised product is being directed to landfill. Milltown is permitted to accept a wide range of wastes. Please consult Conor McGovern or Martin Hogan *greenstar* for further details.

# Biowaste treatment facilities in Ireland December 2004

## Waste Management Regions

- Connaught
- Cork
- Donegal & N.I.
- Dublin
- Kildare
- Limerick/Clare/Kerry
- Midlands
- North East
- South East
- Wicklow



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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Killarney Composting Site   | 11. IPODEC, Limerick Facility        | 21. Robert Delaney, Co. Down |
| 2. St. Anne's Park, Dublin     | 12. <i>greenstar</i> , Silliot Hill. | 22. Down District Council    |
| 3. Carrowbrowne, Galway        | 13. Kildare CoCo. Sludge Plant       | 23. SimproIreland, Tyrone.   |
| 4. Lucan Green Waste Facility  | 14. CTO Middleton                    | 24. Organic Gold, Meath      |
| 5. Aran Islands Facility       | 15. Kinsale Road, Cork               | 25. AES, Navan               |
| 6. Ballinasloe Composting Site | 16. Keady, Armagh, Facility          | 26. Milltown, Clonmel        |
| 7. Lismore, Waterford          | 17. McGill Facility, Cork            | 27. Iveragh Co-Op, Kerry     |
| 8. Tramore, Waterford          | 18. McGill, Cappoquin.               | 28. BEOFS, Kilkenny          |
| 9. Dungarvan, Waterford        | 19. Enviro Grind Ltd.                | 29. Kilgreany, Waterford     |
| 10. Waterford City Facility    | 20. Shannon Vermicomposting          | 30. Ballyshannon AD, Wexford |
|                                |                                      | 31. Marine Harvest, Donegal  |