

Community Composting Initiative – Seeking Feedback



The Headwaters is looking at the feasibility of installing a continuous flow, automated composting facility at their site on Oban Street, for processing compostable waste produced by Mrs Woolly's General Store and Camp Glenorchy, with the view to opening it up to a community composting program.

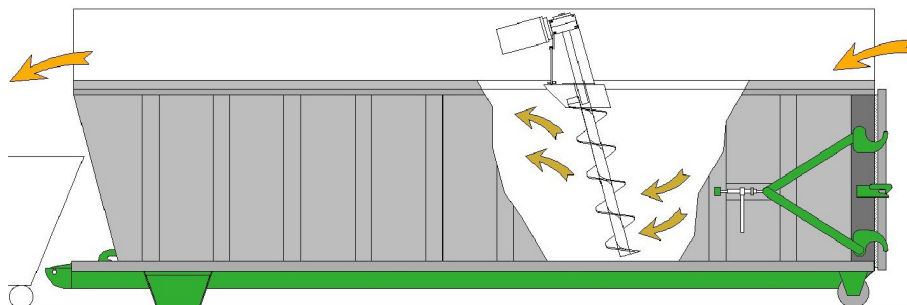
The Intermodal Earth Flow composter that The Headwaters is considering, made by Green Mountain Technologies, is designed to fit inside a high cube Intermodal shipping container either 20 feet or 40 feet in length. Organic waste is added to the

load end. A travelling auger mixes the compost two to four times per day and moves the compost slowly towards the discharge end of the vessel, producing a high-quality compost in two to three weeks. It is recommended that compost is left to cure for one to two months before being used as a soil ameliorant.

The composter would be located at The Headwaters site on Oban Street, although the location on the site is still to be determined. It would be within a sea container with additional area for loading and unloading, and would be integrated into the site operations. Collection of compostable waste from the community is likely to be at a central drop-off point, possibly on site. The composted product would be made available to the community.

A Glenorchy community composting program would be in-line with the *Shaping Our Future* community vision plan, and the push towards the Council's zero waste target. It could be integrated with the existing Glenorchy community green waste program.

Fully-processed
compost is
removed and
ready to cure



Organic waste is
mixed with bulking
agent and loaded
into composter

Benefits	Constraints
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclined / vertical auger and positive aeration system produces high-quality homogeneous, oxygenated compost in 2 - 3 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the availability of suitable bulking agent (e.g. wood shavings, animal bedding, small woodchips, dry leaves, paper products, chopped straw) at ratio of approximately 2:1 bulking agent: food waste
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year-round composting capability designed for and field-tested in extreme weather conditions (e.g. snow, wind and extreme cold) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If cardboard is used as a bulking agent, it requires shredding, and suitable shredders are typically expensive.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enclosed system limits pests and nuisance odours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional time (and space) is recommended for curing the compost before use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system has various methods to control odour (e.g., mixing auger to oxygenate compost and evenly distribute moisture; positive aeration of the unit; biofiltration of exhaust air; management of the composting 'recipe') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It requires a trained operator to manage compost recipe to maintain ideal composting conditions, which affects odour controls.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upcycled shipping container reduces costs by 20%, reuses existing container, makes international transport from manufacturer easier and cheaper, and minimises footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot composting conditions cannot be maintained if compost levels drop below 1m in depth, so continuous volume or batch processing will be required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanical parts require maintenance. Loading and unloading doors may be susceptible to high winds.

The Headwaters is requesting feedback from the Glenorchy community members on whether this is something they would like to see in their community, and gauge the community's likely interest in participating.

We are particularly interested in:

1. Would you like to see a community composting program in Glenorchy?
2. Would you be likely to participate in such a program if it was offered?
3. If so, approximately what volume of compostable (plant-based) waste do you anticipate you would typically bring to the drop site each week? *(please note we would not be able to take Cabbage Trees, Flax or weeds)*
4. Any other comments or questions?

Please feel free to leave a comment or question below, or to email your comments directly to info@theheadwaters.co.nz

Further information is available through the following links:

- **The Green Mountain Composting Technology**
<http://compostingtechnology.com/in-vessel-systems/earth-flow/in-vessel-system/intermodal-earth-flow/>
- **Queenstown Lakes District Council Waste Management and Minimisation Plan**
<http://www.qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling/waste-management-and-minimisation-plan/>
- **Glenorchy Community Visioning Report 2016**
<https://www.shapingourfuture.org.nz/assets/Glenorchy-Community-Visioning-Forum-Report-Final.pdf>
- **The Headwaters**
<https://www.theheadwaters.co.nz>