Issue #19 Summer 2012

Blackwell Inn

waste management digest
News and information about better food waste management

AT-A-GLANCE

LOCATION:

The Blackwell Inn, located on the Fisher College of Business campus of The Ohio State University

PRODUCT INSTALLED:

Grind2Energy™

BY THE NUMBERS:

- **Processed 4.5 tons of organic material** per month
- **Reduced hauling costs** by requiring only one pick up per week **at a cost of $120**
- **Eliminated hauling of the toters** to the compost facility **saving roughly $669 per month** in labor and equipment costs
- **Reduced odor and fly issues** at the loading dock
- **Saved approximately $218** a month **in waste liner costs**
- **Reduced tipping fees** from $52 to $37 per ton for organic materials

Opportunity

To help create an eco-friendly environment, The Ohio State University (OSU) continually focuses on executing ground-breaking programs to reduce, reuse and recycle. In an effort to reduce landfill waste, OSU's Facilities Operations and Development Department collaborated with the Energy Services and Sustainability office to set up a pilot program for composting organic materials from the Blackwell Inn and Conference Center on campus. This initial pilot required an investment of approximately $1,600 to purchase the necessary bins and toters, which led the OSU team to pursue a more cost-effective solution.

InSinkErator Pilot Program

In an effort to reduce hauling costs and contamination in the organic material, OSU entered into a pilot program with InSinkErator and Kurtz Bros. In this program, the Blackwell Inn collected its organic waste and then used a specially designed resource recovery system from InSinkErator called Grind2Energy™ to grind the food waste and then transfer it to a holding tank.

A vacuum truck was used to vacuum the ground food slurry out of the holding tank once per week and deliver the materials to the Kurtz Bros.' Quasar Energy Group facility, where the waste was converted by anaerobic digestion into sustainable, renewable resources such as electricity, compressed gas and fertilizer.

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Cost Comparisons (Estimated monthly basis, approximately five tons of materials per week)

	Landfill	Composting Pilot	Grind2Energy™ Pilot
Trash Management	$1,717.48	$383.14	$383.14
Organics Removal	$0.00	$2,771.70	$1,241.50
Liners	$218.40	$0.00	$0.00
Total	**$1,935.88**	**$3,154.84**	**$1,624.64**

grind 2 energy™

Benefits

Representatives for The Ohio State University learned a lot about the benefits of composting from participating in these pilot programs. While the initial compost pilot was costly and contamination management proved difficult, the InSinkErator Grind2Energy™ pilot helped the University achieve its goal of reducing landfill waste and creating renewable resources for the community. Also, the cost versus benefit analysis comparing the original program (sending all waste to landfill) and the composting pilot versus the InSinkErator pilot showed that the InSinkErator Grind2Energy™ solution reduces landfill waste while still being more cost effective for the University.

"This partnership with InSinkErator demonstrates Ohio State's commitment to being a leader in sustainability and supporting a society of global citizens," said Corey Hawkey, Sustainability Coordinator, Ohio State. "We couldn't be more pleased with the success and savings of the program – from both an economical and environmental standpoint."

Eliminated costly hauling of the toters, pest problems and odor.

1,600-gallon tank holds food materials before waste is converted into renewable resources.

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