

## **Organic Waste Collection at Gatwick Airport – England**

Collection of food waste from a number of food outlets at Gatwick Airport recently started. The purpose of the trials is to develop, test and establish a best practice collection and treatment framework for busy catering outlets.

Space in an airport terminal catering outlet is at a premium. The project will concentrate on how organic waste can be segregated where it's produced, how the waste will be contained and how it will be collected without disrupting the catering outlets day-to-day activities.

To establish the segregation and collection process a number of catering outlets at the airport have helped develop the food waste collection trials

All participating food outlets have been issued with a 120 Ltr wheeled bin to contain and collect the organic waste. To ensure that each bin is used for food waste, these bins have been clearly marked to indicate that only food waste should be placed in them.

To prevent problems of odours and flies each bin originally came with a paper sack. Large amounts of food waste unfortunately exceeded the structural limit of these bags, which often fell apart as a consequence.

Bins are now being issued to food outlets with biodegradable plastic sacks which have better wet strength. To prevent hygiene problems, bins are removed from the outlets by the collection team, emptied and cleaned at a waste transfer station and returned to the outlets.

A thermal treatment machine is used to treat the food waste.