

# Keen interest in Aberdeenshire site



AFOR members braved chilly weather for a successful visit to Keenan Recycling

**Welcome to the update from AFOR's Scottish branch. While composters around the country have been coping with the usual influx of garden waste and grass cuttings, the Scottish branch has also been busy. Jenny Grant, from AFOR's Scottish branch, rounds up the latest news.**

## KEENAN VISIT

A small band of members braved the heavy snow in February to visit the Keenan Recycling compost site in Aberdeenshire. The company was formed in 2003 and has grown rapidly to become a leading composting operation in the North East of Scotland. Its nine acre facility at New

Deer has the capacity to recycle in excess of 70,000 tonnes of organic material each year.

The site initially composted green waste in open windrows and manufactured high quality soil improvers. But, it has recently undergone a £3.2 million expansion (part-funded by WRAP) to allow it to handle food residues

alongside green waste. This has seen the installation of 12 units of a vertical composting system made by VCU Europa.

Within the reception building, food scraps are shredded to below 12mm and mixed with garden waste and wood chip to create a balanced blend, optimising the composting process. The material is then conveyed to the VCU system for composting before undergoing further maturation.

The new system is capable of converting 20,000 tonnes a year of category 3 food waste, fish waste and commingled food/green waste into a high-value compost that is rich in plant nutrients.

Aberdeen council is in the process of rolling out a commingled food and garden waste collection. As with their garden waste, composting the end product from food waste produces a rich, dark humus that can be used as a soil improver.

Many thanks to Grant Keenan for an enjoyable visit and refreshments.

## GOOD ATTENDANCE FOR SPRING SEMINAR: SUCCESSFUL FOOD WASTE COLLECTIONS... PIE IN THE SKY?

We held our spring seminar on 29 April in the AK Bell Library in Perth.

The well-attended event focussed on food waste collections from the public and private sector.

Topics included: the

challenges faced when setting up collections, feedback from local authority food waste trials and collection systems, as well as de-packaging equipment and treatment options.

The morning session was chaired by Professor Kevan Gartland, chairman of the Scottish branch, and started with keynote speaker, Iain Gulland of WRAP Scotland. Iain presented the Scotland-specific targets and gave

an overview of WRAP's activities and partnership working in Scotland.

Next on the agenda was David Stowe of TEG Environmental Ltd who gave a summary of his company's experiences ►►