



Integrated Waste Management at USC

The University of the Sunshine Coast is committed to increasing the sustainability of its activities. To facilitate this, Facilities Management has begun implementing a program that promotes a holistic approach to waste management and considers the entire life cycle of a product from procurement to disposal. The program incorporates a variety of initiatives that collectively form an integrated system for managing onsite waste such as:

- **Desktop recycling** - current under-desk bins replaced with a combination of smaller individual desk bins and communal waste recovery stations.
- **Waste recovery stations** – consisting of a colour coded bin collection system across campus to encourage the separation of waste streams.
- **Onsite composting machine (OSCA)** – onsite organic matter is composted through the onsite composting apparatus and reused on campus gardens.
- **Phasing out the sale of bottled water** – transitioning USC to a water refill campus.

Some of the benefits of introducing an integrated waste management program at USC include:

- Alignment with objectives of the Strategic Plan 2011-2015: Strategic Priority 4: To develop USC for a sustainable future.
- Reduced financial and environmental costs associated with waste disposal.
- Improved separation of waste streams.
- Reduced landscaping costs through abundant supply of quality compost.
- Empowerment of staff and students to contribute to achieving sustainability outcomes.
- Promoting environmental leadership to the wider community.
- Enabling cleaning staff to take ownership of the new system which increases job satisfaction.
- Working in partnership with local creators to provide 'best practice' methods.

The OSCA (On-site Composting Apparatus) is the first Australian system of its kind and has been designed using an automated aerobic system to process organic matter. The key features of OSCA include:

- Process up to 2 tonnes of waste per week.
- Low energy consumption.
- Silent operation and odourless.
- Produces safe high quality compost.
- Two week turn around for compost product.

- Designed and built locally, and all components sourced within Australia.

USC is the first University to roll out the composting machine (OSCA) technology and the first Queensland University moving towards a total water refill Campus as part of an integrated waste management strategy.