

## **For Loan – Rocket A700 food waste composter.**

Food waste is one of the most difficult aspects of waste to deal with. At LEG we are keen to see waste treated as close to source as possible and ideally re-used in the local area. For small scale businesses an in vessel composter is an option that allows us to do just that in our remote rural areas.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) has got an in-vessel compost machine known as a Rocket A700 which was inherited some years ago from a Scottish Government funded programme called Compost Doctors. It has been on loan to Nevis Range for a number of years but they have now altered their arrangements and it has become available again for other businesses to trial.

There are concerns about organic waste as it can give rise to pathogens but the Rocket offers a means to process all food waste including meat products safely. In formal terms this is subject to an exemption from waste management licensing from SEPA. This is given on condition that the waste is processed on site where it arises and that the product is used on site. So it would suit a premises with an active garden such as a hotel, a school, a community café or a residential home.

LEG is offering to make this machine available free of charge for an initial period of 3 years extendable to 5 years to a business located in Lochaber. In exchange, we would want information on its performance and the chance to share the experience with others who might be interested in this technology, along with a requirement to maintain the machine in good order.

Being able to compost your food waste directly has 3 benefits for a business.

1. make use of the compost produced from the waste processed can be used on site and support food growth.
2. Support your businesses green credentials and help you with your climate action plan.
3. Save you money on potential forthcoming food waste collection costs. We are currently investigating what these implications may be.

Reducing food waste is also an important aspect, and Zero Waste Scotland have this resource to help you identify and reduce your food waste.

<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/resources/reducing-food-waste-your-organisation>

Further information about this Rocket and the requirements can be found overleaf.

**Depending on interest, we reserve the right to implement an application process.**

**Make: Tidy Planet – Rocket**

Model: - A700. Current cost for a new machine is £19,715 excluding delivery, installation and VAT.

Specification:

**Electrical Supply**

230Vac 50Hz 1Ph 16A Supply with 30mA RCD Protection

**Electrical Supply Termination**

230Vac 1Ph 16A IP44 Interlocked Switched Socket e.g.



Size: 2.9m long x 0.8m wide x 1.3m high (including stand)

Weight: 600Kg empty.

Throughput: It can process up to 700 litres of food waste per week (100 litres per day).

Current status: unused but cleaned and ready for transportation, and available to view via prior arrangement.

It would suit an out of town hotel with the space to have a couple of maturing bays and a garden to use the compost, or a farm shop café. Material maturation of up to 6 weeks enables suitable maturation of the compost.

<https://tidyplanet.co.uk/rocket-food-waste-composters/>

**Background info:**

After being notified that the machine is becoming available, LEG have been working with Tidy Planet via video calls to identify any spares that may be required for the machine before it is put back into operation.

It's value is for recycling food waste and if you got the mix right, it works really well. Like all compost it needed some 'brown' or carbon. Along with the food waste, a certain amount of "brown" material is required. Speaking with The Lovat in Fort Augustus, they use wood chips that they also use for their boiler.

Quantities and mix depend on the food input, but support from Tidy Planet will be available. The auger inside the machine can be slowed in winter and sped up in summer. We believe that it coped with about 2.5 tons of food waste a year. The main 3 things are:

1. To have somebody who is interested in it to look after it
2. If using for food waste, the table clearers need to separate foreign objects – for example tomato sauce sachets, plastic jam portions and cutlery! Advice from The Lovat is to use longer and shallower collection trays to be able to easily spot unwelcome additions.
3. Having a good maturing bay system. Unless it runs very slowly the product needs to sit in maturing bay – preferably covered and preferably where there are 2 or 3 that can be used in sequence.

### **Current position:**

Funding from the Highland Community Waste Partnership is available to support the transportation and initial re-installation charges and training for the Rocket. However, this is dependent on any interested party taking the time and manpower to undergo training, initial set up and get the right procedures in place.

Checks to date show only minor spares needed (and will be provided and installed) and that the heater blankets do not need replacing. Indicative current costs of heater blankets are £340 + VAT each, and the rocket has 2 of these.

Case studies of existing users of Rockets can be found here, and there is also a link to the Torridon, giving information about the savings they are making.

<https://tidyplanet.co.uk/clients/>

<https://tidyplanet.co.uk/rocket-composter-saves-the-torridon-17000-in-off-site-costs/>

