



## CASE STUDY:



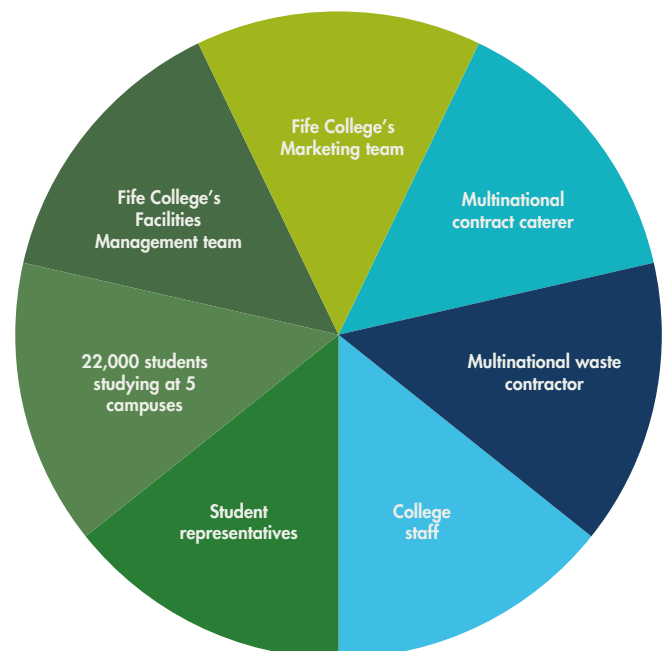
## COMPOSTING VEGWARE AT FIFE COLLEGE:

### 7 STAKEHOLDERS, 5 CAMPUSES, 1 SHARED GOAL

Fife College is a Scottish further and higher education college with 22,000 students across five campuses in Dunfermline, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Levenmouth and Rosyth.

This case study focuses on how Vegware's Environmental team and a diverse set of seven key stakeholders worked together to implement a new composting scheme in just a matter of months.

These parties are:





In 2021 the college's catering team decided to switch all their foodservice disposables to Vegware. They also wanted to set up composting collections.

They contacted Vegware's Environmental team and by early 2022 had joined **Close the Loop** - Vegware's own composting collection for Central Belt Scotland. This meant that all the used Vegware and food waste from each site could be collected and composted.

## A COP26 LEGACY

Keen to continue the legacy of Glasgow hosting COP26, Fife College sought ways to reduce the amount of waste they sent to landfill. In their words, conventional packaging was 'hard to recycle'. Vegware packaging and the Close the Loop collections provided a solution. Instead of being sent to landfill or incineration, used Vegware could be composted in under 12 weeks. Food contamination, far from being an issue, is a welcome ingredient in the composting process.

**“We’re really excited about this new partnership with Vegware. Everyone at the College is eager to do whatever we can to help care for the environment. By introducing compostable packaging we’re not only reducing the amount that goes to landfill, but the waste that is left over can be used for composting in under twelve weeks. The products themselves are also extremely high quality, so we’re sure that our students and staff will be pleased with the results.”**

Tam Cunningham, Fife College's Estates Manager





## THE PLAN'S INCEPTION

Once the college had made the switch to Vegware, the Catering Manager wanted to implement the composting collections. For such a large site, Vegware's Waste Management Consultants began crafting a detailed plan, not only to implement the closed-loop system, but to inform and engage the various stakeholders.

With a catering team of 20, serving an average of 1,000 people a day, developing an understanding and awareness of how to properly dispose of food waste and used Vegware was critical. This was essential for the collection's implementation and long-term success. Clear communications were vital for stakeholder engagement and minimising contamination in the waste streams.

The initial plan was to stage a one-month trial at the Dunfermline campus from November-December 2021. Vegware's Environmental team explained the onboarding process and suggested that a new recycling system would launch more effectively at the start of a new term (after Christmas). This meant that the college had time to properly implement the system. It also gave the Environmental team time to properly communicate the new arrangement.

Convinced, and eager to start composting, Fife College skipped the trial altogether and set January 2022 as a launch date for all five campuses.

## COMMUNICATION IS KEY

With the end of 2021 approaching, Vegware's Waste Management Consultants were hard at work to engage the key stakeholders amongst the student and staff body.

When looking to establish the composting collection, regular virtual meetings were held. These meetings featured all the key stakeholders:

In returning for the new term after Christmas, both the catering staff and students understood the system. Posters, animations and bespoke bin signage were provided alongside training documents for staff as in-person training proved difficult due to the pandemic.

It is testament to Fife College that successful waste segregation was implemented in a matter of months. With larger organisations this can often take much longer – sometimes even a year.



## PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION

Because of this partnership, used Vegware and food waste produced by 22,000 students and staff from all five of Fife College's campuses are now collected and turned into high-grade compost in under 12 weeks. This compost meets PAS100 quality standards and is used on local farmers' fields to nourish soil, improve structure, and reduce flood risk.



## THE RESULTS

By the end of April 2022, Fife College had composted 399 wheelie bins of food waste and used Vegware. That's a lot of compost! The collections brought together 7 sets of stakeholders across 5 different campuses and have since been shortlisted for the **Stakeholder Engagement Award at the Footprint Awards 2022.**

**“It is fantastic that Fife College is now part of Close the Loop. We started Close the Loop in 2017 and has gone from strength to strength – composting catering waste for offices, universities, cafes, and tourist sites all over Central Belt Scotland. We are delighted to have Fife College join us on this journey.”**

Eilidh O'Connor

Vegware's Senior Waste Management Consultant

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**399 x 240L** BINS

**7** SETS OF STAKEHOLDERS

**5** DIFFERENT CAMPUSES

**1** SHORTLIST FOR THE STAKEHOLDER

ENGAGEMENT AWARD AT THE FOOTPRINT AWARDS

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**Fife College's composting collections demonstrates what can be achieved when you have an appetite for a circular foodservice operation.**

## KEEN TO COMPOST?

Our Environmental team offer expert support to help your foodservice operations go zero waste. Let us help your business meet its sustainability goals.

[www.vegware.com/KeenToCompost](http://www.vegware.com/KeenToCompost)