

Success Story: Georgetown University



"The fact that this unit is powered by solar and is keeping the campus cleaner, is a point of pride for our university. It is only fitting that we have a waste/recycling solution that is as forward thinking and educational as Georgetown University itself."

Bill del Vecchio
Recycling Director
Georgetown University

Solar-Powered Trash Compactors Yield Memorable Results at Georgetown University

Although most people strive to "do the right thing" environmentally, proving that "green" solutions actually live up to their promise can often be difficult to document. Not so at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where a 21st century approach to the age-old problem of waste collection has produced strong, quantifiable results.

Founded in 1789, Georgetown University sits on 104 acres overlooking the Potomac River. Accommodating more than 15,000 students, faculty and staff, the urban campus has long battled waste issues, both in terms of litter and cost. The 110 traditional 35-gallon open-topped trash cans located throughout the campus required daily service – sometimes more so on nice days when foot traffic was particularly

heavy. Even then, cans in high-traffic areas often overflowed, which was not only unsightly, but attracted rodents and other pests.

**In Washington, D.C.,
Waste Management
Solar-Powered Trash
Compactors are
a capital idea!**

Georgetown University's solution: solar trash compactors, powered by BigBelly Solar. The school replaced 60 of its most troublesome trash cans with just 20 solar-powered trash compactors. Able to handle 200 gallons of trash each and equipped with wireless monitoring technology that called for service only when the units were near or at capacity.

The compactors yielded measureable results that included:

Collection Frequency (average)
Reduced70%
Man-Hours Reclaimed1,560/year
CO2 Reduction1,307 lbs.

Committed to long-term sustainability, Georgetown University also ordered the three-unit recycling kiosk, which provides a combined 2,000 gallons worth of additional collection space for recyclable bottles and cans as part of the solar compactor kiosk. Georgetown University's administration is thrilled with the clean, easy, convenient and cost-effective solar-powered trash compactors. The solar-powered units support the university's tradition of leading-edge thinking and community leadership.