

Massive On-Site Composting: The Eden Project Raises the Bar

by Sami Grover, Carrboro, NC, USA on 11. 6.09



Image credit: [The Eden Project](#)

The [UK's Eden Project](#) has long had our attention as a Treehugger's wonderland. From the 124 acre biome center Moby, Brian Wilson and PJ Harvey, to the [recycled glass flutes](#) they sell, created from bottles at their own restaurant [of Stupid](#)—this is much more than your average tourist attraction/conservation exhibit. And the team at Eden has been composting over 100 tonnes of its own food waste. As usual with these guys, it's not just what they do, but how they do it.

Since 2005 the center has been taking food waste from its restaurants and turning it into nutritious, organic soil. It's what would normally be considered a waste stream, and turning it into a valuable resource. Currently over 90% of the Eden Project is recycled this way on site, removing the need for haulage to take it away, and reducing the need to import soil.

Crucially, the project also makes use of the whole process as an educational tool. Visitors learn about recycling at the cafeterias and restaurants, and then get to view the recycling process itself as they pass the gigantic 30m³ Nete by one of the main car parks.

This is all part of The Eden Project's 'Waste Neutral' philosophy, which means that it is committed to buying the products it uses and sending them for recycling or disposal. The idea is to help boost the market for recycled goods by adding one vital element to the green economy: reinvest.



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