



## NEW COMPOST WILL HELP CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES MEET ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY OBLIGATIONS

Scottish Water is to help construction companies meet their recycling and environmental obligations with the launch of an organic compost called **Pod**. Changes to publicly procured construction projects will require at least 10% of materials – by value – are made up of recycled content. Many local authorities, public bodies and private companies have already adopted this practice.

According to WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) waste generated by the construction industry (including extraction and manufacture) accounts for more than one-third of total UK wastes and currently only around 50% of construction and demolition wastes are recycled or reclaimed for use back in construction each year. Therefore, anything which can be done to increase the use of recycled materials in the construction industry is to be welcomed.

**Pod** is a top quality soil improver which is peat-free and can be used for a variety of horticultural uses such as landscaping, a dressing for turf or to encourage plant growth. Produced entirely from green materials, the compost has 35% organic matter and is rich in both micro and macro nutrients making it a perfect soil conditioning medium.

“Using **Pod** for landscaping whether it be for housing, commercial or public sector projects can help builders and construction companies meet their targets for using more recycled materials,” said Kristine Leitch, Sales and Contracts Manager, Scottish Water. “In fact, Glasgow City Council has recently become the first local authority in the UK to specify a 10% target for the minimum recycled material content by value in all of its major construction projects. I believe this is a trend which will continue in both the public and private sectors as sustainability is a key issue which needs to be addressed urgently.”

**Pod** has already been used in several large scale landscaping projects, including a 500 tonnes deployment to the new Gartcosh Business Interchange in Lanarkshire, a 90 hectare business park on the site of the former steel works. “We were very interested when we learnt that Scottish Water had recycled one of their plants to create a state-of-the-art composting facility. Sustainability underpins the whole Gartcosh project and we feel that Scottish Water's compost product can contribute to achieving this objective.” Said Simon Bennett part of the Gartcosh project management team at Scottish Enterprise Lanarkshire.

The compost is produced under the strictest quality control conditions at Scottish Water's £2-million state-of-the-art Composting and Recycling plant at Deerdykes, Cumbernauld near Glasgow. **Pod** 's input materials processed at the centre consists of 100% green materials including grass clippings, wood chips, branches and so forth. All input materials are carefully analysed and sifted and any unsuitable materials discarded before being composted using the latest open-air techniques. Every batch of **Pod** is fully traceable at each stage from input to output and has received BSI PAS 100 accreditation from The Composting Association to ensure consistent quality of product. In April 2006 Scottish Water further enhanced the Deerdykes facility with the introduction of a computer-controlled in-vessel composting system which further streamlines the process and enables the processing plant to produce a variety of different grades of compost.

For further details about Pod please contact Louise Butcher at Scottish Water on 0131 445 6639.

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### **Editors Notes**

#### **About Scottish Water**

Scottish Water was created in April 2002 by merging the three former regional authorities. We are a public sector organisation and were set up to improve the efficiency of the water industry in Scotland and to provide a better level of service to our customers.

Scottish Water has 2.2 million household customers and 133,000 business customers.

In the past four years we have delivered about £1.9billion worth of improvements which has seen better quality drinking water in hundreds of communities, cleaner beaches and rivers and better customer service.

Scottish Water is now running the water industry in Scotland for almost £3 million less each week than it cost under the three previous authorities.

Scottish Water is one of the top 20 businesses in Scotland and the fourth largest water utility in the UK covering an area one third of the land mass of Britain.