

Brussels Compost

Location: Vorst, Belgium

Application: Indoor Odourless Composting

Building Series: TITAN Series 3

Building Size: 90' wide x 120' long (27.4m x 36.5m)



Odourless composting in Brussels

Located in the small city of Vorst, which is part of the greater Brussels area, Brussels Compost was faced with the problem of being surrounded by residential areas. The outside composting process produced quite an odour, and as a result of the complaints from the surrounding neighbourhood, renewal of their operating permit was uncertain. Relocation was not an option so Brussels Compost decided to bring the composting process indoors.

For quite some time Brussels Compost, jointly owned by the City of Brussels and Essent Milieu, had worked on developing a concept for indoor composting which would eliminate any odours leaking to the outside. If successful, this would eliminate their problem on the site in Vorst, and would also allow them to integrate odourless composting when assuming operational waste management assignments in other municipalities.

Important criteria when choosing a building was the resistance of the materials used against the harsh environment of composting. The Cover-All building concept met all requirements. The special steel structure, fabricated from ViperSteel®, with its additional coatings ensures the highest possible protection against corrosion. The special polyethylene fabric, Cover-All's exclusive DuraWeave®, provides for a unique, non-corrosive enclosure, with a high degree of light transfer. The high interior temperature of the composting materials and the aggressive elements in the developing "smoke" have little effect on the life expectancy of the building materials.

In the initial phase, a Cover-All TITAN® Series 3 was chosen with dimensions of 90' wide x 120' long (27.4m x 36.5m). The building is placed on a concrete ring foundation. Special provisions were made inside for the inlet and outlet of air. The extracted air is being led through a bio-filter, located next to the building. A large overhead door of 16' wide x 24.6' long (4.8m x 7.4m) allows for the passage of a shovel.

The building was erected in late 2005 and took 16 days for completion. Following the completion of the building, additional proprietary equipment was installed for the composting process after which the building was taken into operation.



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"We have experienced that the quality of the produced compost is very good and exceeds our expectations. We needed a building that would resist the negative side effects of the composting process and importantly, given the situation we were in, could be delivered and installed quite quickly. We are pleased to say that the objective of odourless composting has been successfully implemented at the Brussels Compost facility in Vorst."

– Philip Robinet, Brussels Compost delegated director of Essent Milieu Belgie NV