



Introduction of bio filter lids throughout Fürth helps reduce cost of waste collection

(Fürth) Additional waste-collection runs in the warm summer months are history! Fürth has discovered a way to cut its bio-waste collection costs.

As reported earlier by *Fürther Nachrichten*, households in Fürth are to receive a new type of lid for their bio-waste bins. This is the outcome of a pilot scheme in which 332 households in the Hardhöhe district participated. More than 92 percent of the test participants were in favour of the introduction of the new biofilter lids. That was enough to convince Fürth's Environmental Committee to press ahead with the refitting of all the bio-waste bins in the Fürth district by the end of the year. The core component in the new lids is the biofilter. This is made exclusively of natural materials (e.g. coconut fibre) impregnated with micro-organisms which not only neutralize unpleasant smells, but also greatly reduce the rate at which bin pests are able to proliferate. Loathsome colonies of maggots and clouds of flies are now little more than an unpleasant memory. And the spread into the atmosphere of harmful mould spores is also inhibited. Yet the filter material, which must be replaced every two years, is perfectly harmless, and can simply be dropped into the bio-waste bin at the end of its useful life.

A further advantage of the new lids is that the bins to which they have been fitted are kept cleaner, and therefore do not have to be emptied so frequently in warm weather. That means there is no need for additional, weekly waste-collection runs in the summer months. Christoph Maier, the head of Fürth's Environmental Protection Department, is confident that if a fortnightly service (as in the winter months) were operated all year round, waste-collection costs in Fürth would be reduced by some 300,000 € per annum. That would represent a considerable savings, both for the municipal authorities and for individual householders.

By introducing the bio-filter lids on an area-wide basis, the municipal authorities in Fürth are not only cutting costs dramatically, but are also opting for a modern, highly efficient bio-waste collection system that is quickly gaining the acceptance of individual householders.

The biofilter lid for bio-waste bins is the technically mature and economically viable alternative to additional – and highly expensive – waste-collection runs. It offers proof that modern biotechnology can bring advances that pay for themselves.

The residents in a number of town districts will soon be able to assess the new technology for themselves, for around 7,000 bins are to be fitted with the new lids by the end of May. The 9,300 bins in the rest of Fürth are all to be refitted by the end of 2006.

To find out more about the results of the pilot scheme, and for further information about the filter system itself, you can contact the manufacturer:

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