

## **Options Recycling Partnership**

Options Management have taken a positive step by introducing new services, for one of its major customers, Keele University.

Their Students Union have for some time been involved in improving the environmental credentials of the University, starting with their own managed facilities on campus. As a University with over 6,000 students and 1,200 staff it has experienced and witnessed problems with cans and PET bottles, their collection after use and disposal, other than to landfill.

Jason Davies, the Students' Union Environmental Officer said, 'As no immediate facilities are available to KUSU (Keele University Students' Union) cleaning or catering staff to adequately collect and recycle large amounts of aluminium can and plastic bottle waste, KUSU are installing an 'EcoVerter' reverse vending machine within the Concourse Foyer of the Students Union Building.

'This recycling machine is one of the first in any Students' Union and should gain us accreditation through the Students' Union 'Sound Impact Awards' and the 'Staffordshire Green Awards'.

'It is anticipated that a programme to introduce more machines including those for the recovery of paper and plastic cups, currently impossible to collect for recycling, will be in place this year. It is the right way forward.'

Options Management provide vending services to the University and as part of a close working partnership now provide a 'closed loop' system for the Students' Union. This partnership not only enhances the University's environmental profile but demonstrates producer responsibility for Options, KUSU catering services and the University.

Paul Ure, Managing Director of Options Management commented, 'We are pleased that KUSU have taken a big step forward in recycling and believe that, as suppliers we have a responsibility of delivering new, added value services that make our products and services credible in a modern society. If we put products in the market, we acknowledge that we must play a part in their recovery and disposal. We have done this with Save-a-Cup for years, Options now lead the way with recovering and recycling drinks cans, cups and bottles'.

More information at <http://www.kusu.net/greenweek.html>

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