

Cabot Creamery Cooperative Partners With Casella Waste Systems on Solar-Powered Waste Compactor

Cabot, VT (June 7, 2012) - **Cabot Creamery Cooperative** has implemented its first solar-powered waste compactor at their facility in Cabot, Vermont. This initiative, launched in February, is a result of the long-time partnership between Cabot and **Casella Waste Systems**. It demonstrates Casella's ability to work with partners to implement resource solutions and address topics such as environmental impacts and greenhouse gas reductions.

Cabot's solar-powered compactor was Casella's first prototype and it involves a number of innovative technologies. Currently, the compactor is powered by a combination of traditional electricity and the solar energy absorbed from the newly installed panel. This solar attachment greatly reduces the amount of traditional electricity needed. On a typical sunny day, the solar panel can absorb enough energy to power the compactor for five days, instantly providing a source of renewable energy while also saving Cabot money on energy costs. Casella is currently planning solar upgrades for other key partners given the success of the pilot project with Cabot.

Cabot and Casella are no strangers to joint sustainability initiatives. In May of 2011, Cabot began delivering food waste from its creamery in West Springfield, Massachusetts, to Casella's anaerobic farm digester located in Rutland, Massachusetts. Casella hauls and processes more than thirty tons of organic waste per week from a number of food companies as part of this venture with **AGreen Energy, LLC**.

This anaerobic farm digester combines food by-products with cow manure and accelerates the natural process of organic decomposition to generate large quantities of methane gas. This methane gas powers on-site generators that produce enough energy to power 300 homes. Eventually, Cabot will purchase this energy to help power their creamery, creating a closed-loop resource solution.

This novel design is just another resource solution that Casella provides Cabot, supplementing their trash, cardboard, and Zero-Sort services. These services are complementary of one another and make Cabot's recycling process that much more efficient and convenient. Casella handles and processes all of Cabot's recycled materials locally.

"We rely on key partners like Casella to help us explore new ways of managing our cooperative's impacts," said Jed Davis, Cabot's Director of Sustainability. "Diverting waste to better uses and using renewable energy to

help us handle remaining wastes are just two of many efforts where Casella's expertise has been critical."

Casella has been working with Cabot since 1995, and plans to keep improving their service with more innovative solutions such as the solar-powered compactor. "One of our goals as a company is to help our customers ensure that as few resources as possible are wasted," said Michael Casella, division manager of Casella Waste Management. "We are intent in our mission of recycling the things our customers do not want and transforming them back into things that they do. We are continuously improving, developing new technology and equipment with our partners to help transform traditional waste into a resource."

NOTE TO EDITOR: [Images of the solar-compactor are available for download here.](#) The solar panel pictured in the photo generates power for the compactor.

ABOUT CABOT CREAMERY COOPERATIVE

[Cabot Creamery Cooperative](#) has been in continuous operation in Vermont since 1919, and makes a full line of cheeses, yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese and butter. Widely known as makers of "The World's Best Cheddar," Cabot is owned by the 1,200 dairy farm families of Agri-Mark, the Northeast's premier dairy cooperative, with farms located throughout New England and upstate New York. For more information on Cabot, visit: <http://www.cabotcheese.coop>

ABOUT CASELLA WASTE SYSTEMS

Casella Waste Systems, Inc. headquartered in Rutland, Vermont provides solid waste, recycling and resource management services throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and New York. For further information, please contact Steve McDonnell, Director of Sales and Marketing at (802) 772-2226, or visit the company's website at www.casella.com.

United Nations Declares 2012 "International Year of Cooperatives"

The year 2012 is recognized by the UN as the [International Year of Cooperatives](#). As proud members of the Cooperative Community, Agri-Mark and its Cabot and McCadam brands support and promote the cooperative business model in recognition of the fact that cooperatives drive the economy, respond to social change, are resilient to global economic crisis and are serious, successful businesses creating jobs in all sectors. To learn more about the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives, go to: www.usa2012.coop