

USDA Installs BigBelly Trash Compactors

The Office of Operations has been replacing the existing trash and recycling containers with a smart system that uses solar powered compactors. The solar power compactors allow much higher capacity storage of either trash or recyclables. These new units also use wireless communication that allows the Office of Operations staff to monitor the amount of trash in each unit.

Since the trash containers are sealed, birds do not go into the trash and spread it. In addition, the units have been very effective in combating previous problems with pests. During tourist season, the high number of tourists results in the creation of large amounts of waste that needs to be collected and removed. By Monday morning during the summer, the traditional trash containers are typically overflowing.

There are currently two BigBelly Solar containers at USDA's Headquarters; one located on Wing 1 and the other on Wing 7 of the South Building on Independence Avenue. By the end of November 2013, 3 additional BigBelly Solar compactors will be installed. Below are two images taken at the same street intersection; one corner with the conventional trash container and one on the other corner with the solar compactors.

