

The **BIG** Partnership

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Uni 'crush and cash-in' catering

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GLASGOW Caledonian University has launched vending machines which recycle items and reward students.

Reverse vending machines on the campus allow cups, cans and bottles to be recycled with discount vouchers given as an incentive.

The university is one of nine places in Scotland piloting the Recycle and Reward scheme, part of the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Scotland programme,

and the only one in Glasgow.

Encore Hospitality Services, a subsidiary of Cordia LLP which provides catering services at GCU, has been awarded £90,000 by Zero Waste Scotland to install six machines on campus.

Located in the refectory and Café Roots, both sites have a set of three machines: one to collect crushed cans; one for soft drinks bottles and one for paper cups.

The machines recognise the products, which are then flattened and sorted into a designated bin. This saves up to 15 times the vol-

ume compared to a non-compacting unit.

Every user will receive a voucher for 5p for each item recycled to then be redeemed in Encore's catering outlets on campus.

Frank McCabe, Encore's Catering Manager at GCU, said: "We cater for 17,000 students and 1500 staff at Caledonian, who on a daily basis use 2000 paper cups, 1500 plastic bottles and 500 cans.

"We aim to make customers aware that reducing waste and recycling will mean less landfill."