



Eliminating the Waste in Waste Collection™

“Instead of four collections a day, we only need to travel and collect every second day. The system speaks for itself in terms of environmental benefits.”

- Michael Wanner, Director of road and street cleaning

Salzburg, Austria

The fourth-largest city in Austria and birthplace of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Salzburg is a beautiful Alpine city with an internationally renowned "Old Town" (Altstadt) recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997.

Keeping Salzburg beautiful – but at great expense

With all the welcome commercial activity and tourism, keeping Salzburg clean and beautiful is no easy task. Overflowing garbage cans not only damage the image of cities and towns, but also harm the environment and increase the financial burden on crews manage the mountains of waste.



There are some 2,000 trash cans throughout the city, many of which must be emptied three or four times every day. During special events, such as the European soccer championships held in Salzburg a few years ago, keeping the city clean requires extra containers and increased collection trips, substantially raising fuel costs and overtime pay expenses.

BigBelly system meets criteria for success

Michael Wanner, Director of road and street cleaning for the City of Salzburg, described two essential problems with public waste collection. One is the visibility of waste: “We are always concerned that the waste will not find the container and that litter will spill out even when properly disposed of. This is why we tend to use large containers, but at the same time we seek a solution that discourages the dumping of household waste.” The second essential problem is the required high frequency of collection trips, with the associated costs in money, fuel, vehicles and labor. “Downtown we have to collect waste from the containers four times a day. That requires large staff capacities and also several collection vehicles. The costs of worker time, vehicle distance traveled and fuel consumed significantly increase city expenses.”

Working with BigBelly Solar’s European distribution partners, the City installed the BigBelly waste collection system in a busy downtown area. After a few months, city officials concluded that the BigBelly system had satisfied their criteria for success: Reduced collections, reduced litter, and positive public response.

“We have seen that, instead of four collections a day, we only need to travel and collect every second day,” said Mr. Wanner. “The system speaks for itself in terms of environmental benefits, as a solar-powered network that will save a very significant amount of vehicle travel and resulting CO₂ emissions, as well as freeing up work capacity for other high-priority tasks.”

Positive public reaction, and additional revenue opportunities

“The users’ reactions are very positive because, among other things, the waste is contained inside and out of sight,” said Mr. Wanner. “Furthermore there is the possibility of selling advertising on the solar compactors. Some companies are already interested.”

The BigBelly system is helping make this landmark European city cleaner and more efficient, at a net cost savings.