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New tech cuts compost fire risk

Rob McLennan / 04 October 2022



New locally-developed technology will be used to reduce the risk of dangerous fires at Geelong council's garden waste disposal sites.

The city's Garden Organics Processing Facility in Anakie has been fitted with temperature sensors that will monitor 10,000 cubic metres of garden organics - the equivalent of four Olympic swimming pools - collected from green waste bins across Geelong.

The devices use 4G technology to monitor and log the temperature of organic material.

Patrick Blampied, co-director of Sequence Digital which builds the sensors, said they are weather-proof and solar powered.

"Whenever you pile up large amounts of organic material like compost and that sort of thing, you have a fire risk on your hands," Mr Blampied said.

"They tend to heat up inside the pile before showing any signs on the outside, so monitoring the internal temperature is critical.

He said the sensors can upload data even from remote areas.

"Sending temperatures up onto a server in the cloud, whether it's raining, hail or shine, even with patchy internet in regional areas, it's a pretty robust system.

The devices were developed with the support of a \$26,000 grant provided by Cleantech Innovations Geelong, which is funded by the City of Greater Geelong, the Geelong Manufacturing Council and the Victorian government.

Image: Mayor Peter Murrphy with Geelong Manufacturing Council CEO Jennifer Conley and Co-Directors of Sequence Digital, Patrick Blampied and Raj Pandita (Reg Ryan)

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