

Recycling CASE STORY

Community of Gretzenbach (Switzerland)

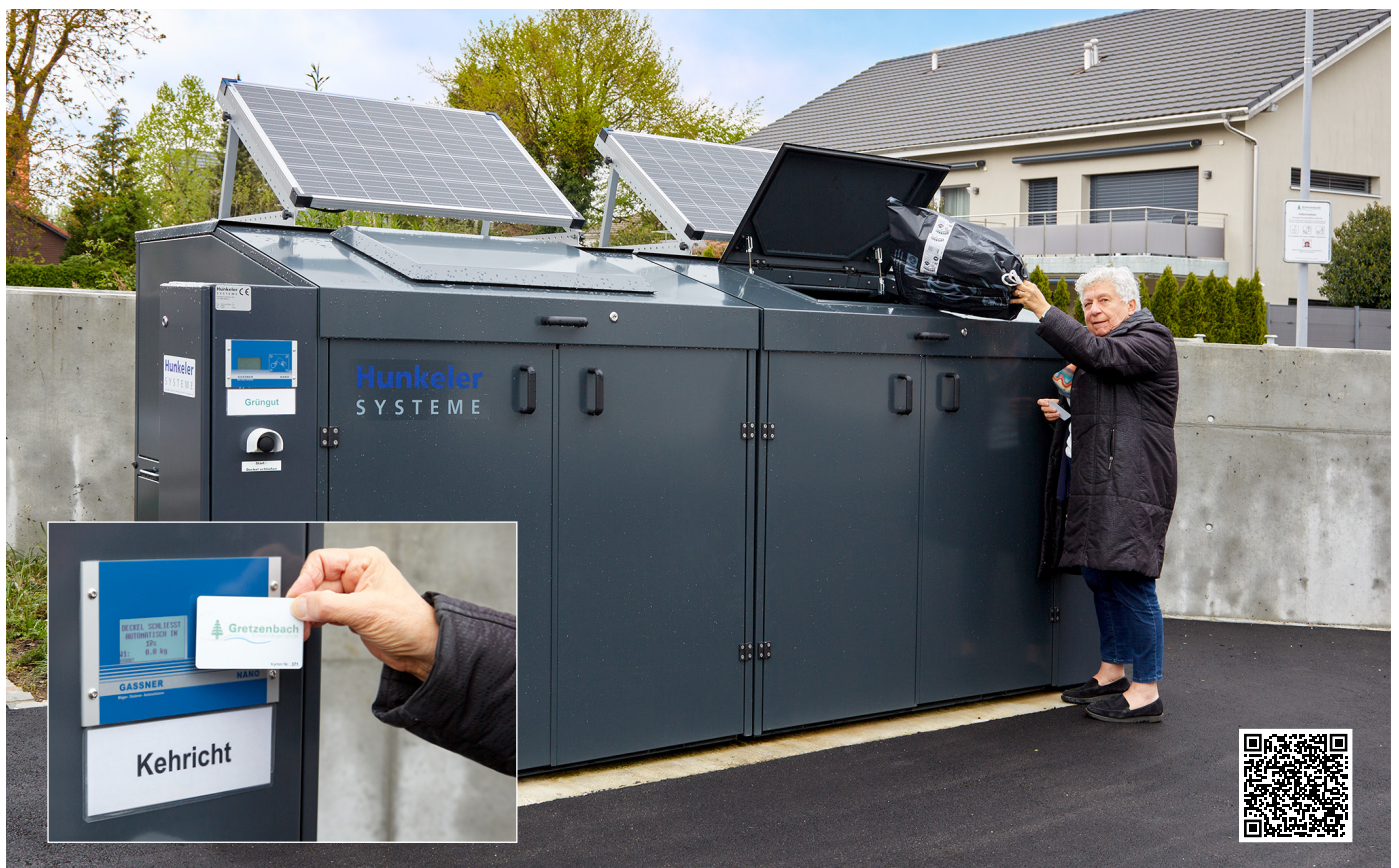
Compact, clean, user-friendly

The municipality of Gretzenbach disposes of green waste and rubbish from a newly built apartment block via two “waste houses” from Hunkeler Systeme AG and charges them according to the source. The fact that all waste is collected and disposed of at a central location was a convincing factor.

Last summer, the municipality of Gretzenbach moved into a new building with flats and a small shop. At the same time, waste management was reorganised. Residents dispose of their organic waste and rubbish in two “waste houses” from by Hunkeler Systeme AG.

Billing is based on the polluter-pays principle. Users pay for the exact amount of waste they dispose of. The weight of the waste is recorded using an internal scale and the corresponding amount of money is charged using a personalised card.

“We have found a clean and simple solution with the “waste house” from Hunkeler Systeme AG,” says Ruth Liechti-Leuenberger, President of the Gretzenbach community. “The disposal of organic waste and rubbish is combined in one compact system.” She particularly appreciates the fact that there are no longer two bins for rubbish and organic waste per residential unit in front of the building, but that all waste is disposed of in a well-organised manner at a central location. The rubbish and green waste collection also benefits from the system. Instead of a large number of bins, only one 1100-litre container needs to be emptied.



After registering using a personalised card (small picture), a hatch opens automatically and the waste can be thrown in.



Where elsewhere there are two bins per residential unit for rubbish and green waste in front of the building, the entire waste is disposed of in a central location in a well-organised manner by the municipality of Gretzenbach. One standard container for green waste (green container) and one for rubbish (grey container) are integrated into the waste house. Solar technology supplies the waste houses with electrical energy.

Unlimited number of licences

The municipal administration of Gretzenbach is responsible for invoicing the costs. The customer-specific data recorded in the waste centres is transmitted online to the administration via the WebConnect software. WebConnect is based on cloud technology. The data is stored on a central server and can be viewed on any internet-enabled device using a standard browser. The local installation of special software is not required. WebConnect has no licence limits.

If additional waste disposal units are to be installed in the future, they can simply be integrated into the software.

Photovoltaics supply electrical energy

Each waste house is equipped with photovoltaic cells. The cells supply the electrical energy required for automatic opening and closing of the waste disposal points. This makes the waste houses energy self-sufficient, eliminating the need for expensive electrical installations.



Polluter-pays principle introduced thirty years ago

After a construction period of around one year, the Gretzenbach civic community was able to move into its new building in the village centre in summer 2023. The building is certified to the Minergie-P standard and houses ten flats and a shop on the ground floor. With the exception of the basement, the interior walls on the ground floor and the staircase, the building was constructed as a timber frame made of Swiss wood.

The two waste houses are not a real novelty in Gretzenbach. Thirty years ago, the municipality introduced waste disposal according to the polluter-pays principle. At that time, large apartment blocks were equipped with large containers with integrated scales, and payment was made using a credit card. Residents of detached and semi-detached houses dispose of their rubbish and green waste in containers with an integrated chip. The weight is recorded during emptying and the corresponding amount is charged by the municipality.