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Supercan

Not all of James Poss's inventions have panned out, like his high-performance shoes with layers of foam on the soles designed to help wearers make quick turns. "I almost broke my ankles with my prototypes," says the Jamaica Plain resident. But his latest idea - a solar-powered compacting trash can he calls

BIGBELLY - is going places fast. Some high-traffic, old-fashioned urban cans get serviced by collection trucks several times a day. But since one BigBelly holds a lot more trash than a non-compacting can, it requires fewer drive-bys. Boston's test program placed 50 cans around the city, making all of the just-stand-there cans around town look pitifully last century.