

OUR FUTURE WASTE



Our future waste community engagement

Please note – this is how we expect the FOGO bin to work however all these details are subject to change based on your feedback.

What is a FOGO bin service?

A Food Organics and Garden Organics (or FOGO) collection means you'll put all your food scraps in the green bin with your garden waste.

Even foods you wouldn't put in a home compost bin can be put in your FOGO bin like bones, out of date meat, lemon peel, onions, mouldy bread, cheese and even dog poo.

What are the benefits of FOGO?

Your organic waste would be turned into high quality compost and mulch products that meet Australian standards. The compost and mulch is then put to good use in parks, gardens and farms, instead of rotting in a landfill and producing methane.

Why is council suggesting a FOGO collection?

Council, State and Commonwealth governments have established waste strategies and policies and they each contain targets to divert waste from landfill. For household waste our target is to divert 55% of household waste from landfill by 2025. Currently we divert approximately 34%.

Queensland has also introduced a Waste Levy that aims to:

- reduce the amount of waste going to landfill
- encourage waste avoidance
- provide a source of funding to enable better resource recovery practices
- provide certainty and security of feedstocks for advanced technology
- facilitate industry investment in resource recovery infrastructure.

The Waste Levy (\$80 from January 2021) is charged per tonne for waste sent to landfill. Over time we could expect the waste levy to increase the cost of disposing of waste to landfill, therefore, we are looking for other ways to use our resources and avoid the levy costs.

On average in our local government area, over 55% of what's going into household landfill (general waste) bins is organic, and most of that organic waste is from the kitchen. When food waste ends up in landfill it creates methane, a greenhouse gas much more potent than carbon dioxide.

A FOGO service means less waste will be sent to landfill, potentially extending the life of our existing landfills by many years.

It also moves our region towards a circular economy as the food and garden waste would be turned into a resource – compost.

Will the FOGO service be compulsory?

We aren't sure – that's why we are asking our community what changes they would be willing to make to make sure we have enough space for our future waste. What we do know is that the more households who participate by using a green bin, the more efficient and cost effective the service becomes.

What will go in my FOGO bin?

If the change in service goes ahead, you would no longer dispose of organic material (including food) in your general waste (garbage) bin. All organic material will instead go into the organics bin. This includes:

- Food organics like fruit and vegetable scraps, citrus, meat, bones, seafood, dairy, bakery products, egg shells, grains and cereals, mouldy and expired food, tea leaves and coffee grounds.
- Garden organics like lawn clippings, leaves, twigs, small branches, weeds, and flowers.
- Other organics like compostable caddy liners, tissues, paper towel, pet poo, and shredded paper.

How often will the FOGO bins be collected?

This is still to be determined based on community feedback, however if the change in bin service goes ahead, council is proposing a change in the frequency of bin collections:

- FOGO (lime green lidded) bins will be collected weekly - because you are putting all that compostable material in your bin, we will collect it every week.
- General waste (garbage) bins will be collected fortnightly.
- Recycling (yellow lidded) bins will continue to be collected fortnightly.

Ratepayers would get a collection calendar closer to the start date, and it will be available to everyone on our website as well.

I already compost, have a worm farm, or feed food scraps to my chickens. Why would I need this service?

The proposed FOGO bin compliments your compost system because you can use your kerbside organics bin for things you might avoid putting in your compost or worm farm, like:

- dairy
- meat
- bones
- bread
- grains
- citrus
- kitchen oils
- pet poo.

What will happen to the organic waste after you've collected it?

Once it's collected, the plan is for our region's organic waste to be turned into high quality compost and mulch products that is put to good use such as in parks and gardens (instead of being buried in the landfill).

Would I be provided with a caddy and liner to put my organic waste in?

The plan is to make available to every household a benchtop caddy and some compostable liners to help contain mess and smell.

The liners are certified commercially compostable and made from materials like corn, which is safe to compost and will not contaminate the food and garden organics collection.

How much does the caddy cost?

A kitchen caddy might cost \$10 to \$15.

How big is the caddy?

This will be determined if the change to the bin service goes ahead.

Do I have to use the caddy liners, and what are they made from?

Using the liners is optional, and we need to do more research if the change to service goes ahead but if a liner is used, it would need to be certified commercially compostable and made from material like corn, which is safe to compost and will not contaminate the food and garden organics collection.

How much does it cost to buy more liners?

Who pays for more liners is another thing we need to determine based on community feedback. Enough liners for an average sized household can cost \$10 per year.

Can I line the caddy with a plastic bag?

No, you must not use other bags, including plastic, degradable, or biodegradable bags must not be used as they will contaminate the collection of organic material.

Will my caddy or kerbside FOGO bin get smelly and messy?

Waste can be prone to odours in high temperatures, during the festive season or if the bin lid is not completely closed.

It's unlikely that simply sorting waste differently, for example by placing food scraps into the organics bin instead of the landfill bin, will create additional odours.

When food scraps are contained in compostable liners, or in newspaper, it is likely to reduce odour. A mix of garden and food waste will also help keep odours under control in your kerbside bin.

Your kerbside organics bin will be collected weekly, which will also help to manage smell.

Once the program starts you might want to consider some of these methods for preventing odours:

- Use the compostable liners that would be available with the kitchen caddy.
- Wrap large or particularly smelly organics in newspaper.
- Close the lids tightly on both the caddy and the kerbside bin.
- Keep kerbside bins in the shade.
- Keep your kitchen caddy out of direct sunlight.
- Mix food organics with garden waste.
- If it becomes an issue, you can sprinkle vinegar, bi-carb soda, charcoal or eucalyptus oil in your organics bin or kitchen caddy to absorb and dissipate odours.
- Wash/hose your bin out occasionally.

What colour lid would the FOGO bin have?

It's expected that the current green waste bin with a lime green lid would become the new FOGO bin.

What will be the cost for the 3rd bin for Garden Waste or FOGO service?

The cost for a 3rd bin garden waste or FOGO service would be:

- no additional cost to those households that currently have a garden waste bin.
- an additional amount similar to the current garden waste bin cost (\$62.10 per annum) to households that do not currently have a garden waste bin.

Will I still have a lime green lidded garden waste bin?

The lime green lidded garden waste bin would become the new FOGO bin.

What if I live in a unit, apartment or townhouse?

All households will produce organic waste. For properties with multiple units (apartments, townhouses, retirement villages) you can still use a FOGO bin. Or if you only have food waste we would look at options like a smaller bin or a shared Food Organics bin.

What if I don't have a garden – I live in an apartment or town houses – do I need a green waste bin?

We have recognised that certain premises such as apartment blocks, may not have gardens and do not generate green waste. That is why the garden waste is 'opt out' rather than compulsory. Property owners would however need to be able to demonstrate why they should be allowed to opt out.

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