



## FAQs FOGO Trial Extension

### Purpose and duration

**Why is Council extending the trial FOGO service?**

The FOGO service is one of the simplest ways we can all reduce carbon emissions and achieve our goal of halving the amount of waste that is sent to landfill by 2030.

In landfill, food waste creates methane, a harmful greenhouse gas emission that contributes to climate change.

Food and garden waste accounts for almost half of the waste found in the average red lid garbage bin in Burwood. This material takes up limited landfill space and creates harmful greenhouse gases when it breaks down. The FOGO service will divert waste from landfill and instead create compost.

The initial FOGO trial indicated that 35% of accepted food waste was still reaching landfill – we know you can do better!

**How long will it go for?**

The FOGO trial extension will commence late August / early September 2023 and will run for approximately 6 months, to February 2024.

At the end of the extended trial a further audit will be undertaken to measure the success of the trial.

### Participation

**My house is included in the FOGO trial extension, but I don't want to participate.**

You are our FOGO champions!

**Do I have to?**

Council is inviting every household within the trial area to participate in the extended FOGO trial to see how much food waste can be diverted from landfill each week. Your participation is **strongly encouraged**.

**I already use a compost bin/ worm farm at home**

Great to hear that you compost!

During the FOGO trial extension, ALL food scraps, even those not traditionally put into compost bins such as meat and fish scraps, bones, dairy and citrus are accepted in the green lid bin. By all means continue to use your compost bin as you would normally, but any food scraps that you would not normally place in your compost bin can now go into your green lid bin instead of the red lid bin for the duration of the trial extension.

<b>Does the FOGO and the normal garden organics material go to the same place?</b>	<p>No. This is why residents who are <i>not in the trial area must not</i> put food waste in their green lid bin.</p> <p>The garden waste material will continue to be taken to a Veolia site on Anzac St in Greenacre, where it is turned into a mulch product.</p> <p>The FOGO material collected from the trial area will be taken to the Veolia Clyde Transfer Station first, and checked. It is then sent for treatment at an advanced waste treatment facility at Woodlawn.</p> <p>The product is then used for mine site rehabilitation works at the Woodlawn mine, as approved by the NSW EPA.</p>
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<b>Changes to your bin collection</b>	
<b>How often will the green lid bin be collected during the trial extension?</b>	<p>During the trial extension period, participants within the trial area will continue to put their green lid bins out for collection <b><i>on a weekly basis, each Wednesday.</i></b></p> <p>Please place your bin out on the evening prior to your collection day.</p>
<b>Are there any changes to the red lid bin collections?</b>	<p><b>Yes.</b> As part of the FOGO trial extension, there will be a change to your red lid bin collection service. The red lid bin will be collected <b><i>fortnightly</i></b> during the FOGO trial extension instead of weekly. This change will commence from the start of the FOGO trial extension.</p> <p>There will be no change to your yellow lid bin, - this will continue to be collected fortnightly on the alternate week to the red lid bin.</p> <p>Please place your bin out on the evening prior to your collection day.</p>
<b>Why did the collection of my red lid garbage bin change to fortnightly?</b>	<p>Removing food waste from your garbage bin is one of the easiest changes we can make to start reducing our waste.</p> <p>The cost of disposing waste to landfill is continually increasing, so we are rethinking the way we sort our rubbish. Our data tells us that the average red lid garbage bin in the Burwood FOGO trial area was made up of approximately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46 per cent food waste</li> <li>• only 30 per cent residual waste - the waste which actually belongs in our garbage bin.</li> </ul> <p>FOGO is also a State-wide initiative with all NSW Councils introducing a FOGO service by 2030, this includes changing the frequency of garbage collection to fortnightly to achieve State-wide landfill diversion rates.</p>
<b>Will I be able to get a larger red lid garbage bin for my household?</b>	<p>Although not encouraged, you can request to upgrade your standard size 120L red lid garbage bin to a larger size 240L red lid garbage bin.</p> <p>Council staff will work with you to determine an appropriate solution to suit your household's waste needs.</p>

**What if my household has children in nappies?**

We understand residents with children in nappies may have different waste needs. Please contact Council so that we can work with you to determine an appropriate solution to suit your household's waste needs.

If your household has children in nappies, Council recommends disposing of as much of the nappy contents as you can into the toilet;

- wrap the nappy tightly into itself and use the tabs to secure. Put the wrapped nappy into a biodegradable / compostable bag, removing air and tie the bag
- store your garbage bin in the shade
- make sure the lid can close properly and the bin has no cracks or splits
- using scented nappy bags and odour neutralisers such as bi-carb soda in your bin can also help minimise smells

A Community Nappy Trial conducted by Lake Macquarie City Council showed that the odour of bins containing nappies at the end of a fortnight were no worse than the odour of regular general waste bins at the end of a week. Furthermore, the trial showed that odour does not significantly increase with time, or with the number of nappies in the bin.

**What about the smell of nappies in my red lid garbage bin?**

We understand some residents with children in nappies are concerned about the odour of their red lid garbage bin with the fortnightly collection frequency change.

We know that nappies and bins smell however, we also know that other local council areas who have changed to a fortnightly garbage bin collection have not experienced issues with nappies or odours. A [Community Nappy Trial in Lake Macquarie Council](#) even found that the smell of bins that contained nappies was no worse at the end of two weeks than it was at the end of one week.

Tips to try for managing the smell of nappies in your bin:

- Firmly wrap nappies before placing them in your bin
- Put solids from nappies into the toilet before wrapping and placing in your bin
- Keep your red lid bin in the shade or out direct sunlight
- Sprinkle bicarb soda into your bin to help neutralise smells
- Consider the idea of switching to cloth nappies, even for part of the time.

## FOGO at home

### What goes into my green lid FOGO bin during the trial extension?

If you can eat it or it grew in the ground it will be able to go in your green lid FOGO bin.

In addition to your garden waste, you will be able to place all food waste in your FOGO bin. This includes:

- fruit and vegetable scraps
- meat and bones (raw and cooked)
- eggs and dairy
- seafood
- bread, pasta, rice and cereal
- loose tea leaves and coffee grounds
- plate scrapings and leftovers

### What cannot go in my FOGO bin during the trial extension?

It's important to be aware that you cannot place tea bags, clam and oyster shells, animal waste or cat litter into your green lid FOGO bin.

Any food packaging and fruit and vegetable stickers also need to be removed from food and cannot go in your FOGO bin.

The following cannot go in your FOGO bin:

- tea bags
- plastic and biodegradable bags
- gardening items, plastic pots, garden hoses and tools
- animal waste including kitty litter
- clam and oyster shells
- liquids, fats, greases and oils
- soil, rocks or concrete
- vacuum dust
- plastic, glass and metal
- nappies, hygiene products, baby wipes and makeup wipes
- treated or painted timber and building materials
- food packaging, rubber bands, cling wrap, foil, polystyrene and fruit and vegetable stickers.

**\*\*Please note;** cardboard packaging such as pizza boxes and soiled paper such as paper towel, tissues, baking paper, serviettes or coffee filter paper are no longer accepted.

### Previously I could place pizza boxes, paper towel and tissues into the FOGO bin. What has changed?

A recent change by the NSW EPA affects the way you dispose of cardboard like pizza boxes and soiled paper such as tissues and paper towel. These can no longer go in your FOGO bin. Clean cardboard can be recycled, and soiled paper should go in your general waste bin

If you are interested in why these changes have been made by the NSW EPA and how they affect Council, visit the website: [www.epa.nsw.gov.au](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au) and look up FOGO information for households.

<b>Will the FOGO bin smell?</b>	<p>Here are some tips to reduce odours for your green lid FOGO bin:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• place food waste in a compostable liner bag or wrap in newspaper</li> <li>• try alternating layers of food waste with garden waste, like lawn clippings or dry leaves</li> <li>• wrap up food waste like prawn shells, seafood and uncooked meat scraps and store them in the freezer until closer to collection day</li> <li>• store your bins in a shady, flat and well-ventilated area</li> <li>• rinse your bins occasionally, and always keep the lid closed</li> <li>• sprinkle some bicarb soda in the bin to neutralize smell</li> </ul> <p>Other tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the lid of your green lid bin is always closed</li> <li>• Place the bin in a shady spot, if you can</li> <li>• Ensure you contain waste by tightly tying your compostable bags before placing them in the green lid bin</li> <li>• Keep a small pile of grass clippings and layer on top of food waste to cover it, reducing smell and the possibility of pests</li> <li>• Place potentially odorous foods such as expired meats or seafood and shellfish in the freezer until bin night</li> <li>• Consider purchasing a 'bin protector' for approximately \$11-12. These kill flies, maggots and eggs and last up to 3 months, and if considered necessary, may only need to be used in the hot summer months (from Bunnings or local garden store)</li> <li>• Consider purchasing a bin deodoriser for a few dollars (from Bunnings or local garden store)</li> </ul>
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<b>FOGO Kits</b>	
<b>What do I use to collect my food scraps?</b>	<p>All trial participants received a free kitchen caddy and a roll of compostable liners delivered to their door just prior to the initial trial commencement, to make the collection of food scraps easy and convenient.</p> <p>If you are new to the area and are part of the FOGO trial extension, please contact Council for information on how to access your free kitchen caddy.</p>
<b>What is the kitchen caddy for?</b>	<p>To help you store and carry food waste out to your green lid bin you can use your kitchen caddy.</p> <p>The kitchen caddy is to be placed in a convenient location somewhere in the kitchen. Suggestions include on the benchtop, under the sink or in the fridge, if you have room.</p>
<b>What are the little bags for?</b>	<p>Council will provide another roll of 150 compostable bags that should be used to line the kitchen caddy. This will help to keep it clean and to contain the food waste, so that it can be easily disposed of straight into the green lid bin</p>

Our compostable liners are Australian certified, made from vegetable material and are completely plastic free. These liners completely break down in the composting process.

Only lime green compostable liners with the certified symbol shown are able to be placed into your FOGO bin.



**Do I have to use the kitchen caddy and liners?**

No, you can use any container to collect your food scraps and take these to your green lid FOGO bin.

You can collect and place food scraps into your green lid bin loose or wrapped in newspaper.

Please note you cannot use plastic or biodegradable bags, only compostable liners with the certified compostable symbol are able to be placed into your green lid FOGO bin.

**Which bags can I use to line the kitchen caddy?**

As part of the FOGO trial extension, you will receive another roll of 150 compostable bags

You can also purchase certified compostable liners from major supermarkets, it's important to remember that only lime green compostable liners with the certified symbol are able to be placed into your FOGO bin.

If you require information in other languages contact the Telephone Interpreter Service directly on 131 450 (free service) and ask them to call Burwood Council on 9911 9911 on your behalf.

#### **ARABIC**

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى معلومات بلغات أخرى، اتصل بخدمة الترجمة الشفهية عبر الهاتف على الرقم 131 450 (خدمة مجانية) واطلب منهم الاتصال بالنيابة عنك بمجلس بيروود على الرقم 9911 9911.

#### **CANTONESE**

如果您需要以其他語言瞭解信息，請致電131 450聯繫電話傳譯服務中心（免費服務），並請他們代您致電9911 9911聯繫Burwood市議會。

#### **GREEK**

Εάν χρειάζεστε πληροφορίες σε άλλες γλώσσες επικοινωνήστε με την Υπηρεσία Μετάφρασης και Διερμηνείας στο 131 450 (δωρεάν υπηρεσία) και ζητήστε τους να καλέσουν εκ μέρους σας το Δήμο Burwood στο 9911 9911.

#### **HINDI**

यदि आपको अन्य भाषाओं में जानकारी की आवश्यकता है, तो सीधे 131 450 (निःशुल्क सेवा) पर टेलीफोन दुभाषिया सेवा से संपर्क करें और उनसे बरवुड काउंसिल को 9911 9911 पर आपकी ओर से कॉल करने के लिए निवेदन करें।

#### **ITALIAN**

Se avete bisogno di informazioni in altre lingue contattate il servizio di interpretariato telefonico direttamente al numero 131 450 (servizio gratuito) e chiedete loro di chiamare il Burwood Council al numero 9911 9911 per conto vostro.

#### **KOREAN**

다른 언어로 정보가 필요하시면 전화통역서비스(Telephone Interpreter Service)에 바로 연락하셔서(131 450번, 무료) 귀하를 대신해 버우드 카운슬(9911 9911번)로 전화를 걸어 달라고 요청하십시오.

#### **MANDARIN**

如果您需要以其他语言了解信息，请致电131 450联系电话传译服务中心（免费服务），并请他们代您致电9911 9911联系Burwood市议会。

#### **NEPALI**

अरू भाषामा यहाँलाई जानकारी आवश्यक भएमा 131 450 (निःशुल्क सेवा) मा सिधै टेलिफोन दोभाषे सेवामा सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस् र आफ्नो तर्फबाट 9911 9911 मा बर्नवुड काउन्सिलमा सम्पर्क गर्नका लागि उनीहरूलाई भन्नुहोस्।

#### **VIETNAMESE**

Nếu quý vị cần thông tin bằng các ngôn ngữ khác xin liên lạc trực tiếp với Dịch vụ Thông dịch qua Điện thoại qua số 131 450 (dịch vụ miễn phí) và nhờ họ thay quý vị gọi cho Hội đồng Thành phố Burwood qua số 9911 9911.