



Food Organic Garden Organic

Bin trial newsletter

February/March 2024

Issue 1

As a resident in the FOGO trial area we appreciate you adapting your waste habits! Here’s an update on the trial results so far and answers to some of your most commonly asked questions.

Why are compostable bin liners not accepted?

1. **Plastic bags** can vary in colour, size and labelling. This makes it impossible to determine what is compostable and what is not when FOGO material is hand sorted for processing.
2. The **costs to process FOGO increase** due to contamination if compostable bags are included.
3. The **cost of providing compostable bags** would be significant.

Common contaminations found include:

- Plastic bags
- Garden pots
- Garden hoses

The **less contamination the cheaper the costs** of sorting the material for Council and the better the product for our farms!

Top tips to reduce odour, flies and maggots

1. **Store meat and dairy products** in the fridge or freezer **until the day before collection**.
2. **Regularly rinse** out your kitchen caddie and FOGO bin. Food residue will attract flies after servicing.
3. **Rinse food packaging** before placing in your red lid waste bin.
4. **Use bicarb soda or white vinegar** in your bins as a natural deodoriser and insecticide (your supermarket will also stock similar items).
5. Place **green waste** (e.g. grass clippings) **on top of food waste** in the FOGO bin.
6. Store your FOGO bin **in the shade** and kitchen caddie away from fresh fruits or vegetables.

Where does the FOGO go?

All 170 tonnes of FOGO material collected has been delivered to **an external contractor for composting on farms**. This material is hand sorted before being mechanically shredded and stockpiled for composting.



Council is committed to reducing landfill waste.

Facts about our FOGO trial

The cost of sending waste to landfill via the red lidded bin is significantly increasing

as State Government subsidies on household waste phase out over the next 10 years.

Council will advocate for **State or Federal Government support** prior to commencing a regional FOGO service.

By incorporating a FOGO process, Council aims to:

reduce the waste levy paid on household kerbside waste by at least **40%.**



make composting FOGO material the more sustainable alternative (sending to landfill contributes to the production of harmful greenhouse gas).



provide a product (compost) to our farmers that will increase carbon in the soil, reduce water loss and result in higher yields.



Household FOGO material accounts for **57%** of the waste being sent to landfill

through the Bundaberg Region's kerbside bin collection.

The **aim of the FOGO trial** is to assess if it is viable and practical for Council to introduce a broader FOGO collection compared to the cost of taking no action.

FOGO post implementation survey

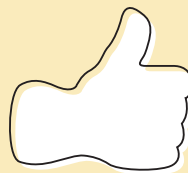
Thank you for sharing your thoughts at the beginning of the trial. A new survey is available for you to complete via the QR Code.

This **survey takes less than five minutes** and will greatly help us understand how your household has transitioned to a three-bin system.

SURVEY



A next survey in late 2024 will be available to residents to determine their views of the trial following their full experience with the FOGO bin across all seasons.



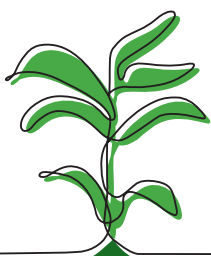
FOGO trial results so far

More than **170 tonnes collected and processed** to date (15 kg per bin per week)

Less than **1% of the material collected** has been contaminated

A **50% reduction in waste to landfill** has occurred since the start of the trial, shown by comparing waste bin weights in the trial area with neighbouring non trial areas

More than **94% of bins inspected** were completely free from contamination



If you still have further questions or would like assistance with your household bins please contact our waste and recycling team or visit bundaberg.qld.gov.au/fogo

This initiative is supported by the **Queensland Government's Recycling and Jobs Fund**



Queensland Government