

LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL

FOGO Proposal

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



What is the FOGO proposal?

What is FOGO?

FOGO stands for **F**ood **O**rganics and **G**arden **O**rganics. It is a kerbside bin collection service that takes food waste and garden waste for recycling.

A FOGO bin is a 240 litre kerbside bin. This is the same size as your existing red-lid general waste kerbside bin and yellow-lid recycling kerbside bin.

A FOGO bin will have a lime green lid.



What goes in a FOGO bin?

A FOGO bin takes household food waste and garden waste so it can be composted. A FOGO bin only takes organic waste. Organic waste is waste from living, growing things. Generally, if the waste item is something that could grow it can go into FOGO.

Will the size of my other bins stay the same?

Yes, Council is proposing to keep the red-lid general waste bin and yellow-lid the same size.

Will the collection of my other bins stay the same?

Yes, Council is proposing that the red-lid general waste bin and yellow-lid recycling bin will be continue to be collected as usual.

How often will a FOGO bin be collected?

It is proposed that a FOGO bin will be collected weekly.

The proposed system is as follows:

Every **week** you will put out your:
red-lid bin (general waste) and
lime green-lid bin (FOGO) .

Weekly



Every **second week** you will put out your :
red-lid bin (general waste),
lime-green lid (FOGO), and
yellow-lid bin (recycling).

Fortnightly

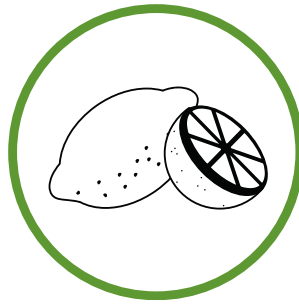


What can go in your FOGO bin?

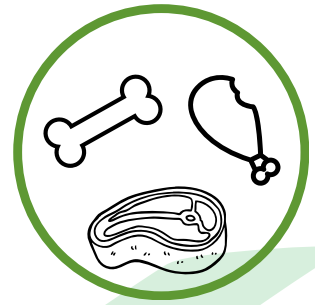
You can put your food and garden organic waste in your FOGO bin. The FOGO bin can even take food that isn't suitable for home composting.



Fruit and vegetable scraps



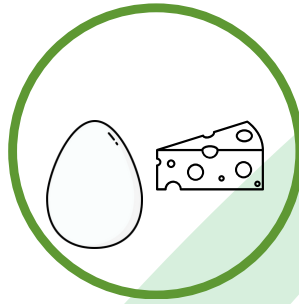
Citrus fruit scraps



Meat and bones



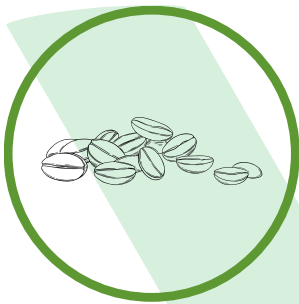
Bread and baked goods



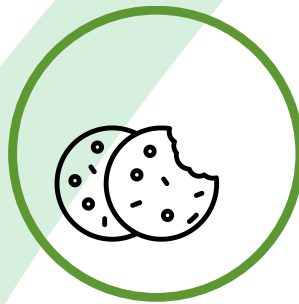
Cheese and dairy foods



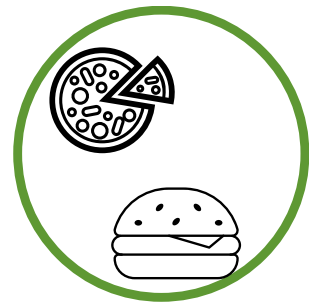
Seafood and shell fish



Coffee beans and tea leaves



Biscuits



Takeaway food



Plants and weeds



Small branches and leaves



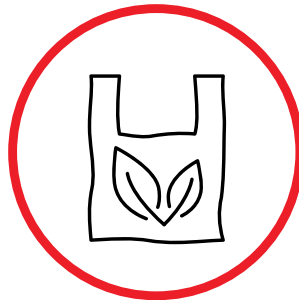
Grass clippings

What can't go in your FOGO bin?

Only food and garden organics can go into FOGO.
The following items cannot go in the FOGO bin.



Vacuum cleaner dust



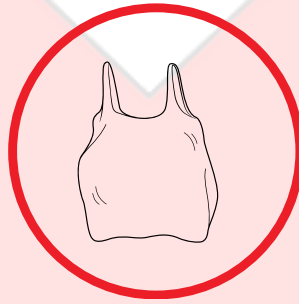
Biodegradable bags



Bamboo, cardboard or timber cutlery,
plates, bowls & serviettes



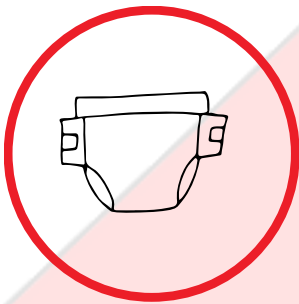
Washing machine and dryer lint



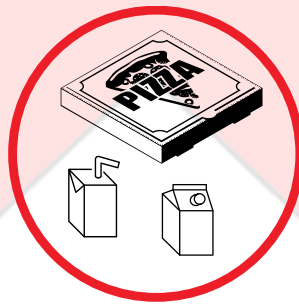
Plastic bags



Plastic, glass & metal



Nappies and hygiene products



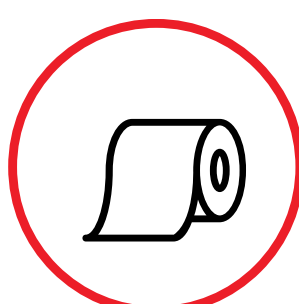
Packaging



Tea bags & coffee pods



Animal faeces &
kitty litter



Paper towel, baking
paper & coffee filters



Medicines and
other waste

Why FOGO?

Some of the benefits of FOGO are:

FOGO provides households with a comprehensive composting service, reducing waste to landfill and returning resources to productive use.

In the Lithgow LGA, **more than half of the waste** in the red-lid bin is food and garden organics.

When food and garden organics are put in the red-lid general waste bin they go into landfill.

Disposing of organic waste in landfill is a waste of the valuable nutrients and energy that could be used to replenish the soil. FOGO helps households compost, instead of waste, valuable resources. Residents are still encouraged to compost at home but a FOGO bin can be used for items that you may not put in your home compost such as dairy foods, meat, bones and weeds.



FOGO preserves valuable landfill space

Landfill space is not unlimited and the available space is a community asset. Using this asset carefully to conserve the space is necessary to ensure the availability of accessible and affordable waste facilities for the community into the future.



Wasting food and garden organics in landfill wastes valuable landfill space. Composting saves landfill space, reuses resources and helps to protect the environment.

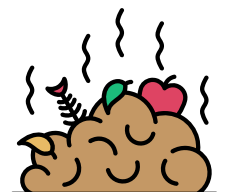
FOGO recycles nutrients back to the soil

Recycling your FOGO into compost returns valuable nutrients to the soil and improves the soil. Healthy soil grows safe, clean, nutritious and affordable food.

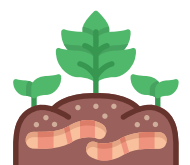


FOGO helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions

FOGO waste in landfill deteriorates without oxygen. Without oxygen, organic waste deteriorates slowly and releases methane gas. Methane has a much greater greenhouse gas effect than carbon dioxide. Organic waste that could decompose quickly in compost can take up to 25 years to decompose in landfill and continues to release methane while deteriorating.



FOGO waste is composted. In compost, organic waste decomposes with oxygen. Organic waste that decomposes with oxygen does not release methane and helps to return carbon to the soil.



FOGO common questions

Some common questions about FOGO are:

Will my FOGO bin attract pests or smell?

A FOGO bin is collected weekly, reducing the potential for odours and pests, however, there are some simple ways to make keep odours and pests away:

Each week put your bin out for collection

Remember to put your bin out for collection on the scheduled day each week.

Ensure the lid is closed

Keeping the lid closed keeps any pests out and odours in.

Freeze food scraps before placing in the FOGO bin

Put smelly food in the freezer and put it in your FOGO bin the night before collection.

Freshen up with natural deterrents

Following collection you can add some citronella or tea tree oil to the bin to help keep it fresh.

Reduce excess liquid

Draining excess liquid from items before disposing of them to minimise moisture in the bin will help reduce pests and odours.

Shelter your bin from hot sun

Keep your FOGO bin in the shade to help prevent odours.

Will my kitchen caddy attract pests or smell?

The kitchen caddy is designed to fit on your bench so it is easy to put scraps in as you cook. The caddy can be washed and it has a close fitting lid to prevent odours and pests. The caddy can be lined with newspaper to absorb excess liquid and be kept in the fridge if it can't be emptied regularly into the FOGO bin.

What if I already compost organics?

A FOGO bin can be used for items that you may not put in your home compost such as dairy foods, fish and meat bones and weeds.

How will we go FOGO?

Help for households

Council will provide to every household that presently has a kerbside red-lid bin and yellow-lid bin:

1. A lime-green lid bin,
2. A kitchen caddy, and
3. Information about what can and can't go into the FOGO bin.
4. FOGO bins will be provided at transfer stations/landfills for the use of residents without a kerbside service.



What is a kitchen caddy?

A kitchen caddy is a small container with a lid. It is designed to sit on your kitchen bench. The caddy can be used to collect food scraps in your kitchen and carry them to your FOGO bin.

Fill your caddy with your food scraps, including food scraps that you cannot compost at home.



Empty the contents of the caddy into your FOGO bin with other waste such as garden cuttings or lawn clippings.

You can line the caddy with newspaper but no plastic bags can go into the FOGO bin.

Your caddy can be washed or put in the dishwasher.

Helping households fix food waste

The National Food Waste Benchmark estimates that 1.7 million tonnes of food is wasted in NSW each year and households are the largest contributor, wasting 688,000 tonnes of food each year.

The NSW Government has developed the Love Food Hate Waste program to help households reduce food waste. Council will continue to help residents access these resources to fix food waste. Avoiding food waste saves time, money and the environment.



Why this FOGO proposal?

Why introduce FOGO now?

The NSW Government has mandated that Councils provide a FOGO service to all NSW households by 2030. A grant that provides funds to assist with the initial roll-out costs is available if the community endorses the proposed service.

There are a number of matters for Council to consider regarding the timing of the introduction of the mandated FOGO service. Council is considering commencing the service from 2023/24.

The introduction of a FOGO service from 2023/24 is the earliest the service could start. Council's timing of the introduction of the service will be based on considerations that include providing the most cost-effective service to households, securing processing capacity, diverting organic waste from landfill sooner, conserving landfill space and protecting the environment.

What are the alternatives to Council's proposed FOGO service?

The FOGO bin is collected weekly.

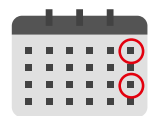
FOGO is collected weekly because:

- Food organics and garden organics decompose, and
- Food organics and garden organics make up more than half of the waste in household kerbside red bin.
- The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) guidelines support weekly FOGO services.

Council reviewed the alternative options to make changes to the red-lid (general waste) bin.

The possible alternatives reviewed were:

- *reducing the red-lid bin collection to a fortnightly service, and*
- *reducing the size of the red-lid general waste bin to 140 litres.*



Weekly → Fortnightly



240ltr → 140ltr

What are the red-lid bin (general waste) alternatives?

Alternatives to the proposed FOGO system that were reviewed:

Alternative 1: Changing the frequency of the collection of the red bin

An alternative to the proposed service would be for the red-lid bin to be collected fortnightly instead of weekly.

Council is proposing to keep the weekly red-lid bin collection. This minimises the change for households, however, if through the consultation process the community indicates a preference for a fortnightly red-lid bin collection then this option will be considered.

Some cost reductions may be possible by changing to a fortnightly red-lid bin service, however, the amount of waste collected remains similar so the collection costs do not change significantly.

What is the alternative to Council's proposed service?

The alternative to Council's proposed system is for:
Only the green-lid FOGO bin to be collected weekly.

Under this alternative system, each fortnight residents would put out for collection their:

- General waste red-lid bin,
- Recyclables yellow-lid bin and
- FOGO green-lid bin.



Why is Council not proposing to change the size of the red-lid (general waste) bin to a smaller bin?

At present, the red-lid general waste bin is a 240 litre bin. Council does not propose to change the size of the red-lid bin from a 240 litre bin to a 140 litre bin because it does not reduce the cost of providing the collection service.

✓ Council is proposing to keep the 240 litre size general waste red-lid bin.

✓ Council encourages residents to reduce the amount of waste in their red-lid (general waste) bin.



A FOGO bin will help to reduce waste in the general waste red-lid bin. Reducing the amount of waste in the general waste red-lid bin does reduce the cost of the service and also conserves landfill space.



How much will FOGO cost households?

How much will FOGO cost households?

First, it is important to realise that the Domestic Waste Management charge is **not** part of Council's general rates. The Domestic Waste Management charge **does** appear on your rates notice; however, it is calculated separately based on the cost of providing domestic waste services.

Council has undertaken cost modelling for the FOGO service.

This cost modelling will inform the following future calculations of the Domestic Waste Management Charge; however, the final costs will be determined following a firm price for the total service being established through a procurement process.

Council's proposed FOGO service could cost households with a kerbside service:

- **An additional \$10 (20 cents per week) in the first year of the service (e.g. 2023/24).**
- **If necessary, a further \$10 (an additional 20 cents per week) from the second year of the service (e.g. 2024/25 onwards).**

These two increases will increase the annual Domestic Waste Management Charge by \$20. This is 40 cents per week. These costs are in addition to normal Consumer Price Index (CPI) increases.

Households without a kerbside service will not pay the additional FOGO charge.

The additional \$10 from the second year (e.g. 2024/25) onwards may not be required, depending on the actual final costs of the FOGO service and other savings.

The current funding model makes some reliance on income from commercial waste being applied to part fund FOGO. This may need to be reconsidered should Council's financial sustainability not improve. For this reason, there is a question in the survey which seeks to gauge how much people are prepared to pay for a FOGO service.

Are there any other impacts on households?

Households will have another 240 litre kerbside bin on their property.



Have your say on going FOGO

FOGO Survey

Council is inviting community feedback on the proposal to introduce a FOGO service.

[Have your say by completing the FOGO survey.](#)

The FOGO survey is available online at this link :

surveymonkey.com/r/FOGOSURVEY

You can also access the FOGO survey by scanning the QR code.



The FOGO survey is also available to view at:

- Council's Administration Building, and
- Lithgow Council library branches at Lithgow, Portland and Wallerawang.

To submit the survey, residents can:

- Fill in and submit the survey online,
- Fill in a copy of the survey and post it to Council,
- Fill in a copy of survey and hand it in at Council's administration building,
or
- Answer the survey questions over the telephone by calling Council on 6354 9999 from 20 February - 20 March 2023.

Answers to the survey are anonymous. The survey must be submitted by 4pm on Monday, 20 March 2023.

Following the community consultation period, all submissions on the FOGO proposal will be reviewed.

A finalised version of the proposal will be put to Council, incorporating and addressing the responses from the public received during the consultation period.



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