

FOGO Trial

Frequently Asked Questions

What is FOGO?

Food scraps and garden waste are both high in nutrients and minerals that can be recycled.

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) is a kerbside collection service that allows food to be added to the **green lid garden waste bin** so it can be recycled into top quality compost, just as your garden waste has always been.

Why FOGO?

FOGO allow us to divert food waste from landfill, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use the waste to create compost that can be used in farms, parks, sports fields or even in our own gardens. By 2030, all councils in NSW will provide a FOGO collection service, in accordance with the state government initiatives.

Why run trials?

FOGO trials will capture information and help council prepare for the smooth delivery of the service across Cumberland.

What is the NSW Government mandate for FOGO?

The NSW Government has introduced new requirements for councils to provide food and garden waste collections to all NSW households by 2030.

The announcement for the mandate was made in 2021 by the NSW State Government Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

What strategies has Council relied on to initiate the implementation program for the FOGO Service?

The NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 introduced new requirements for councils to provide food and garden organics collections to all NSW households by 2030.

How is Council preparing for the introduction of FOGO?

At the Council Meeting held on 2 November 2022, Council resolved to implement a trial program for food organic and garden organic services (FOGO) in Cumberland. Council resolved for a two stage trial program undertaken over the next three years.

As a first step towards progressing a FOGO service by Council, a two staged trial program is proposed that can be undertaken over the next three years. The components of the trial program include:

- Stage 1: Small scale trial to test and validate service design. This would be undertaken with up to 100 households, selected through an Expression of Interest process. This stage of the trial would be undertaken during 2023.
- Stage 2: Larger scale trial with up to 1,000 households in response to the results of the small-scale trial and completion of missing elements to enable a FOGO service to be provided, such as the full provision of green bins. This stage of the trial would be prepared in 2024 and implemented in 2025.

The learnings from the two stage trial will inform the full rollout of the FOGO services across Cumberland.

Who can participate?

Currently, the trial is limited to residents in Greystanes with a green bin.

What Council expects from you

If you sign up, Council will contact you to inform you of your participation. You will be provided with all the necessary information and a resource kit to participate in the trial which includes a pamphlet; a free kitchen caddy and bin liners; and a fridge magnet with key dates and reminders.

At the end of the trial, you will be invited to provide feedback and Have Your Say on your experience. This will inform delivery of the next stage of FOGO.

Please note: If you do not sign up for a trial, your service does not change, and no action is required.

What is involved in the trial?

Participants of the trial will be requested to present red and yellow bins as usual.

For two consecutive fortnights, Council will conduct a pre-trial assessment of usual usage of green bins and red bins presented at the kerbside.

During the 4 week trial period, participating residents will be invited to collect food scraps from the kitchen, place food scraps into a lined kitchen caddy (provided), then empty the caddy into their green garden waste bin, along with regular garden waste each week. Participants should then be presenting green bins on the kerbside for collection each week. At the end of the 4-week period, service and use of green bins by participating households returns to normal.

Council will visually inspect the contents of red and green bins at the kerbside from participating households. The bin audit is completely anonymous, and we will not record private information from each bin.

What happens next?

If you are interested in participating in trials, please fill out an expression of interest.

We will provide all the details required for participation including start & end date; pamphlet; a kitchen caddy and bin liners; in-person information session; a fridge magnet with key dates and reminders, and detail about what is involved for your household.

At the end of the trial 4 week trial period, residents will be invited to keep the kitchen caddy but return to regular use of the green garden waste bin as before the trial.

Information Session

There will be an optional evening workshop with Q&A session on Thursday 19 October to learn more about the trial. You may still participate if you don't attend the workshop.

Optional information evening for participants:

Thursday 19 October 2023, 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Allan G Ezzy Community Centre (Main hall)

1 Newport Street, Pemulwuy

Call for feedback:

To know more, contact council on 8757 9000