

**Is
here!**

Fogo

We love living in the Bega Valley's beautiful, pristine environment.

That is one of the reasons we are introducing FOGO - a new, innovative way to manage food waste to reduce the environmental impact of sending it to landfill.

FOGO will:

- change the way we think about waste
- save on landfill and save money
- transform your food and garden waste into high quality compost



what will change?

- Your four-weekly **GREEN** bin (garden organics) collection will become a weekly FOGO collection
- Your weekly **RED** bin (general waste/landfill) collection will become a fortnightly collection
- Your fortnightly **YELLOW** bin (recycling) collection will remain the same

Why FOGO makes sense

- FOGO is a higher level of service provided at the current level of charging. FOGO collection will result in more bin collections for residents each year.
- Food waste generates methane in a landfill. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas 21 times worse than carbon dioxide. Less methane production in our landfill means we are contributing to reducing our environmental impact.
- Our landfill will last longer. FOGO will divert around 1000 tonnes of household food waste away from landfill each year.
- The EPA has set targets to divert 75% of waste generated away from landfill. We are working towards these targets through the Bega Valley Waste Strategy and FOGO will play a key role.



Frequently asked questions

Q When will FOGO start?

FOGO collections start from October 29, 2018.

Q What bin do I use for FOGO?

Your current organics (green) bin is the bin you use for your FOGO waste.

Q What can go in my FOGO bin?

Essentially anything that was once living can go into your FOGO bin. This includes:

All garden waste including trimmings, clippings and prunings (no branches over 50mm please)



Meat (including bones) and dairy



Eggshells



Seafood



Take away food (no containers please)



Vegetable and fruit scraps



You can also put tissues, paper towels, shredded paper, kitty litter and animal droppings in.

Q What else can't go in my FOGO bin?

- Plastic bags, plastic packaging, nappies and personal hygiene products or anything recyclable.
- Treated and painted timber, building materials, metals and glass.
- Plastic plant pots, garden hoses, seedling trays or garden tools.

Weeds that are a potential biosecurity risk, as listed in the *South East Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan 2017-2022*, must **not** be put into your FOGO bin. These weeds are to not be knowingly transported and it is an offence to do so under Sec 23 of the *Biosecurity Act 2018*.

Q What if I don't want to use the FOGO service?

Council encourages home composting, however, the FOGO service will be provided to all residents that currently have a residential garden organics service. If you have specific circumstances you can contact Council to discuss your options.

Q Will my bin smell?

The FOGO collection service will be provided weekly to reduce odours. As an added measure, we are providing free kitchen caddies and compostable bags for all your food scraps. You can then place all food scraps into your caddy and tie the bag up before placing it into your FOGO bin.

Q What are compostable bags?

Compostable bags are placed into your kitchen caddy; they make collecting food scraps easy and clean. Typically they are made from vegetable starch and become food for the tiny microbes in the composting process.

Q Can I get more compostable bags when I run out?

Council will provide a free roll of bags to each household annually. Each roll has 150 bags which should last an average of 1 year. If you find you are using more bags you can buy them from Council for a small fee.

Q Can I wrap my scraps in paper?

Yes, using newspaper or other waste paper is great! Just don't use plastic bags!

Q Will FOGO be available to commercial properties?

Yes, a weekly FOGO collection service will be available to commercial properties.

Q Why can't biodegradable items go in my FOGO bin?

There is some confusion over the meaning of biodegradable and a misconception that biodegradable items are compostable. They are not. 'Degradable' does mean they will break down into tiny pieces but some biodegradable items are still plastic. Our composting technology does not have the capacity to break down biodegradable items so please keep them out of your FOGO bin.

Q I live in a unit, can I still have a FOGO service?

Yes, provided you already have a garden organics (green bin) service you will have a FOGO service.

Q Are there other bin size options?

Yes, you will be able to modify the size of your red and yellow bins to suit your individual needs. Changes can be made easily by calling Council on 6499 2222.

Q What will happen if I contaminate my FOGO bin?

The collection contractor's vehicles are fitted with cameras that can look at contents of each bin. If your bin has contaminants we will put a sticker on your bin notifying you of the issue. We understand that change can be difficult, so we will do all that we can to help you...

**choose
the right
bin**

What is FOGO?

FOGO is **Food Organics Garden Organics** – a new weekly collection service of green bins. With FOGO, people can put food waste including raw and cooked food, eggshells, meat, bones and seafood into kerbside green bins with organic waste. We then turn what goes into the green bins into high quality compost at the Merimbula Waste and Recycling Depot.

**FOGO saves on landfill,
saves money and gives us all
the opportunity to be
smarter with waste!**

Why FOGO?

Did you know? On average (by weight) 38% of the contents of your red bin is food that can be composted. Landfill should be the last option for waste disposal. Landfills are expensive, and landfilling results in resources being lost, instead of being recycled. Around Australia, and in the Bega Valley, the rate that landfills are filling is increasing. The faster the landfill space is used, the greater the cost to the community and the environment.

How do we divert more waste away from landfill?

Food waste is easy to keep out of landfill. FOGO is part of a plan to improve the way we manage waste and it has both financial and environmental benefits.

Who will GO FOGO?

The changes that FOGO will bring to bin collection services will affect residents who have an organics (green) bin service. This is around 12,000 properties in the towns of Merimbula, Berrambool, Mirador, Bega, Tura Beach, Bermagui, Cobargo, Tathra, Mogareeka, Eden, Wolumla, Kalaru, Pambula, Quaama, Wallaga Lake and Candelo. If you don't currently have a green bin collection service, there will be no change.

What can go wrong?

FOGO will result in changes to the way you sort your household waste for collection and its success relies on not having contaminants in your FOGO bin. It's really important for residents to **choose the right bin**.



**choose
the right
bin**



is not just about choosing the right bin,
it's about changing the way we think
about waste...

Simple tips to reduce food waste

- Plan your weekly menu and take a shopping list (with quantities) to the supermarket
- Cook with leftovers
- Store food correctly so it lasts longer
- Take advantage of your local community garden

Stay up-to-date

Download the FREE Bega Valley Waste APP

Call us on 1300 212 203 or 6499 2222

Visit www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/waste

Follow our Facebook page

@BegaValleyWasteandRecycling



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