



FOOD ORGANICS & GARDEN ORGANICS

What you need to know

This project is proudly supported by



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FIRSTLY, THANK YOU

Rockhampton Regional Council would like to say a very big thank you for your participation in our Region's organic bin trial.

This booklet has been put together for you and your household and provides all the information you need to know about using your new service.

SO, WHAT'S THE GO with FOGO?

In a nutshell, there's a lot of organic waste currently going to landfill and that's not the best place for it. If we can instead separate it and turn it into compost, we will significantly reduce carbon emissions from landfill, provide valuable benefits to our local agricultural sector and be able to deliver future kerbside services at the very lowest cost to ratepayers.



You can find more information on our website.

Simply scan the QR code below to be taken to our dedicated FOGO page, or head to www.rrc.qld.gov.au/fogo.

BINS and COLLECTIONS

Your new organics bin (lime green lid):

Your new organics bin will be a 240 litre bin, same size as your existing kerbside bins. It will be easily distinguishable from your other household bins by its lime green lid.

It will be collected each week - the same day as your usual collection day.

The maps later in this booklet show the neighbourhoods which are also trialling the full FOGO service along with you.

Your new waste bin (red lid):

Because more of your waste will be going in your new organics bin, we are swapping out your general waste bin for a smaller model. It will also be collected less than it currently is - now fortnightly, not weekly.

Your recycling bin (yellow lid):

Your recycling bin and its collection will remain unchanged.



WHAT GOES IN the FOGO BIN?

From the kitchen:

- fruit and vegetable scraps
- meat and bones
- pasta, bread, rice and cereal
- eggs and dairy
- tea and coffee
- seafood and shells
- takeaway food and leftovers
- paper towel, tissues and shredded paper
- compostable caddy liners (AS4736)

From the Garden:

- grass clippings
- garden weeds
- leaves
- fallen fruit
- flowers
- prunings and twigs
- branches up to 10cm in diameter
- palm fronds (cut to fit in your bin)
- animal droppings

It is really important that you

remove all packaging before placing waste in your FOGO bin. Please make sure you don't include any wrappers, containers, plastic or foam packaging.

All items can be thrown loose into your FOGO bin, or placed in either only a compostable bin bag or in newspaper. Please – no plastic bags or biodegradable bags.



AS 4736
compostable bags



NO plastic bags



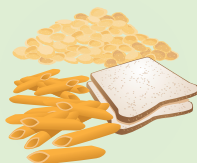
NO packaging



Fruit and vegetable scraps



Paper towel, tissues and shredded paper



Pasta, bread, rice and cereal



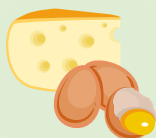
Takeaway food and leftovers



Meat and bones



Tea and coffee



Eggs and dairy



Seafood and shells



Garden waste



Separate at the sink

One of the biggest changes many households will need to make is separation of waste in the kitchen. Whilst many of you will already be separating your recyclable containers and packaging (yellow bin) from general waste (red bin), separating your food organics will be new for some of us.

We have provided you with a kitchen caddy to help. With this in your kitchen, FOGO works in four easy steps:

1. Place your food scraps and leftovers in a container/kitchen caddy kept on your kitchen bench, under the sink or in your fridge
2. Empty your caddy or food waste into your FOGO bin on a regular basis as required
3. Place your garden waste into your FOGO bin
4. Put your FOGO bin out for collection every week on your usual collection day



Caddy Liners

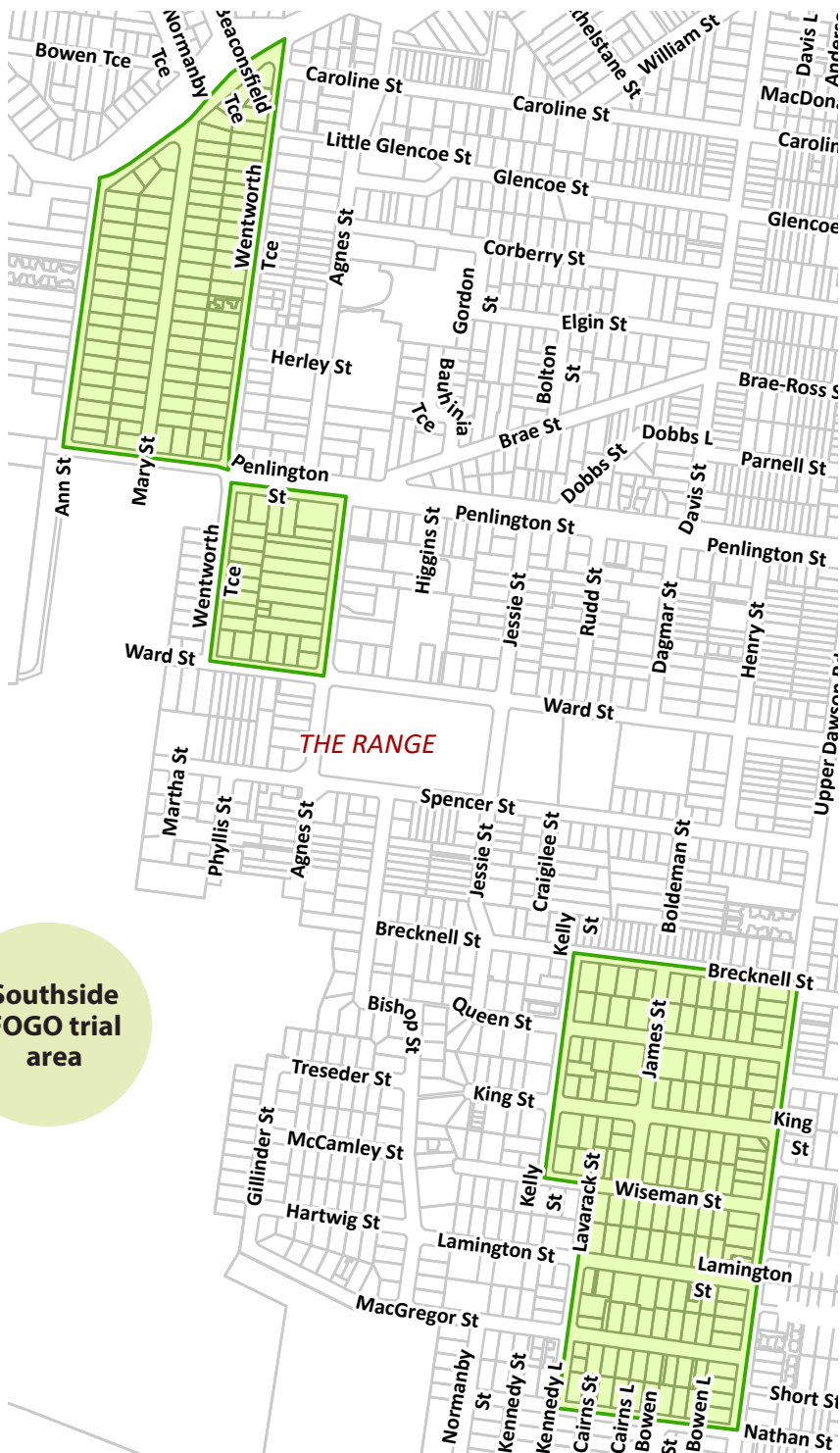
There is no requirement to use caddy liners. In fact, there are several effective alternatives to manufactured caddy liners, including wrapping food waste in newspaper, paper towel or brown paper, or placing a layer of cardboard or dry leaves on the bottom of your caddy.

You cannot use plastic, biodegradable, or other types of degradable bags in your FOGO bin. These products are made from plastic, with the "degradable" description referring to the fact that they will break down into smaller pieces of plastic. This will contaminate the compost product.

Compostable bags can be purchased from most local supermarkets and hardware stores. Remember, no plastic is allowed in the FOGO or GO bin. Always make sure your bags have the compostable symbol on them for AS5810 and/or AS4736.

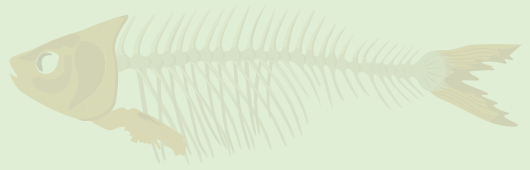


**Southside
FOGO trial
area**



**Gracemere
FOGO trial
area**





FREQUENTLY asked **QUESTIONS**

What if my smaller general waste bin is not enough?

You may feel that you need more space in your general waste (red) bin. However, we have conducted waste audits over the last three years and found that up to 50% of the general waste bin is compostable material and a further 15-20% is recyclables.

Remember, all food items are now going in to your weekly FOGO (lime green lid) bin. In fact, your FOGO service now provides your household with a 70 litre per week increase in bin capacity compared with the regular two bin service.

I need more general waste - what can I do?

We completely understand that some households won't be able to make the switch to a smaller bin, whether that's due to medical waste or nappies or just the number of people in your household. If you're concerned about the new bin configuration get in touch and we'll work with you to find a solution.

I don't think I need a FOGO bin

You may feel that you don't need a FOGO bin. Perhaps you compost at home, feed your scraps to the chooks, or mulch your garden waste at home.

There are however quite a number of household items that cannot be easily dealt with at home, for example compostable packaging, or items not suitable for home compost such as citrus, meat, dairy and cooked leftovers.

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- Store your bin out of direct sunlight
- Make sure the bin lid is kept fully closed
- Don't leave standing water in the bottom of your bin
- Wrap your food waste in caddy liner, newspaper, brown paper bags or paper towel
- You can absorb odour by placing a layer of grass clippings, dry leaves, newspaper or shredded paper on top of the food waste when you place it in your FOGO bin
- Keep your food scraps in the fridge/freezer and don't place them in your bin until the day before collection.

How can I avoid fruit flies in the kitchen caddy?

Fruit flies are a problem in our climate, especially during the summer months. To reduce the chances of fruit flies, we recommend you empty your caddy/caddy liner every 2-3 days.

You can also consider storing fruit in the fridge.

Go to our website for more top tips on how to trap fruit flies.





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