

NEWSLETTER

December 2021



THANK YOU ALL!

The response to this trial from the 762 participating households has been overwhelmingly positive, so we thank you for your kind words of support.



"Excellent idea!! :) I've seen other councils do this and it's very successful!" – Suzann (Southside)



"Great idea! There are lots of things that don't fit our compost and worm farm and anything that reduces waste while helping other is a great concept." – Dee



".. I am glad to be doing something positive for our environment and the bin collection schedule is working well for our household." – Suzi (Southside)



KEEP IN TOUCH

Have you seen the downloadable info, calendar and tips to improve your FOGO or GO experience? Find it on our website by scanning the QR code or head over to – www.rrc.qld.gov.au/FOGO

What other FOGO info would you like to see on our webpages? Let us know!

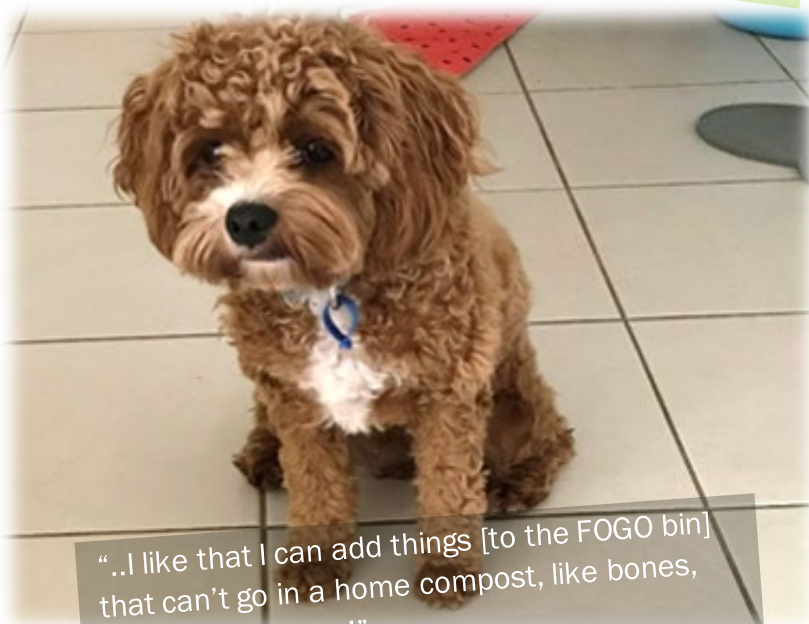
CONTACT US:

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"Emma and Laura enjoy assisting with the garden clean up using the new green [GO] bin."
– Northside, family of 3



"..I like that I can add things [to the FOGO bin] that can't go in a home compost, like bones, meat and dog poo!"
– Gracemere, family of 2 + dog



Q&A

The intent of this trial is to provide an understanding of, and resolving real-life household challenges. The following are some of the more common issues coming up so far....



The reduced size of the general waste bin is just not working for us?

We understand that the reduced general waste service does not work for everyone, e.g. large families, or households with lots of nappies. If you are struggling, please get in touch with our team and we will work with you to find a solution. So far, 59 of our trial households have been eligible to have their general waste bin upsized back to a 240L bin

The organics bin is too big, why isn't this one the smaller one?

This trial is testing the viability of several service options, including how much bin volume you need. So far we have found that 55% of the FOGO bins and 75% of the GO bins are more than half full. So whilst many of you are not filling your bin (which is fine), the majority of our participants actually do need this size bin

We compost at home already, so we don't need an organics bin?

22% of the 270 responses to our FOGO survey said they used a compost bin, so we know it is a popular option. However, there are a lot of items that can go into your kerbside organics bin that don't work in the home compost e.g. large prunings, meat, dairy and processed foods. So please keep home composting, both solutions have their place.

Surely this is just going to increase my rates?

We really don't believe so. One of the most important reasons for this trial is to establish the real cost of providing this service. It is our expectation at present that an organics service will actually be more cost effective and therefore better value for the ratepayer than continuing to dispose to landfill.

How do I control the maggots in my bin?

If this is an issue for you, try: covering food waste with layers of garden waste, freezing meat until bin day, keeping your bin in shade with the lid properly closed. Please go to our FAQs on the website for more handy tips.

Don't all the extra trucks increase the carbon footprint?

No. We conducted independent analysis prior to the trial, which concluded that the methane emissions generated from landfilling organic materials are over 20 times higher than the emissions generated by a kerbside service.

Go! FOGO Go!



WELL DONE TEAM FOGO!



64 t

Organics



67 %

Participation

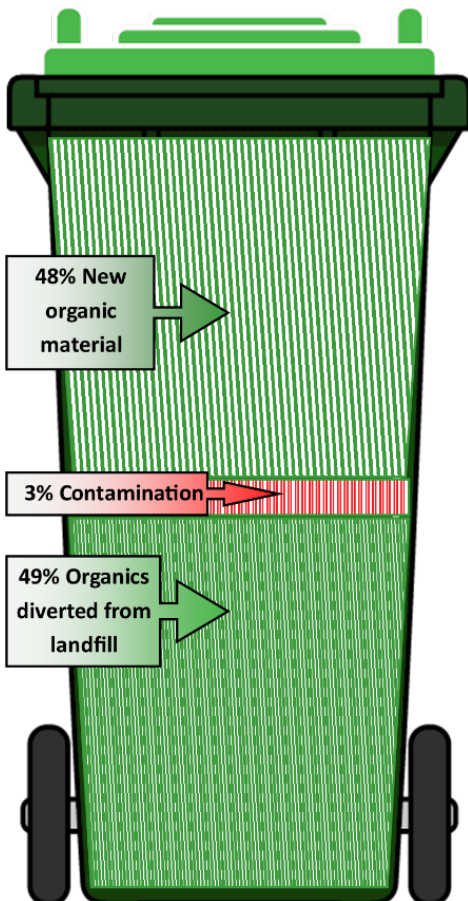


2.7 %

Contamination



WHAT IS IN THE BIN?



This is what we know from initial bin monitoring.

Our first compositional audit early next year will explore exactly what types of material are being collected.



UNBELIEVABLE BUT TRUE!



47 %

Fresh
Vege



46 %

Bread &
Bakery



33 %

Fresh
Fruit



26 %

Meat &
Seafood



SO LETS CLOSE THE LOOP





COMPOSTABLE BAGS

If you are lining the caddy with your own bags, please make sure you only use compostable bags (available in your local supermarkets or hardware stores). Compostable bags are always labelled with either of these Australian Standard symbols.

NO plastic bags - you cannot make compost with plastic!



KEEP YOUR FOOD NUDE

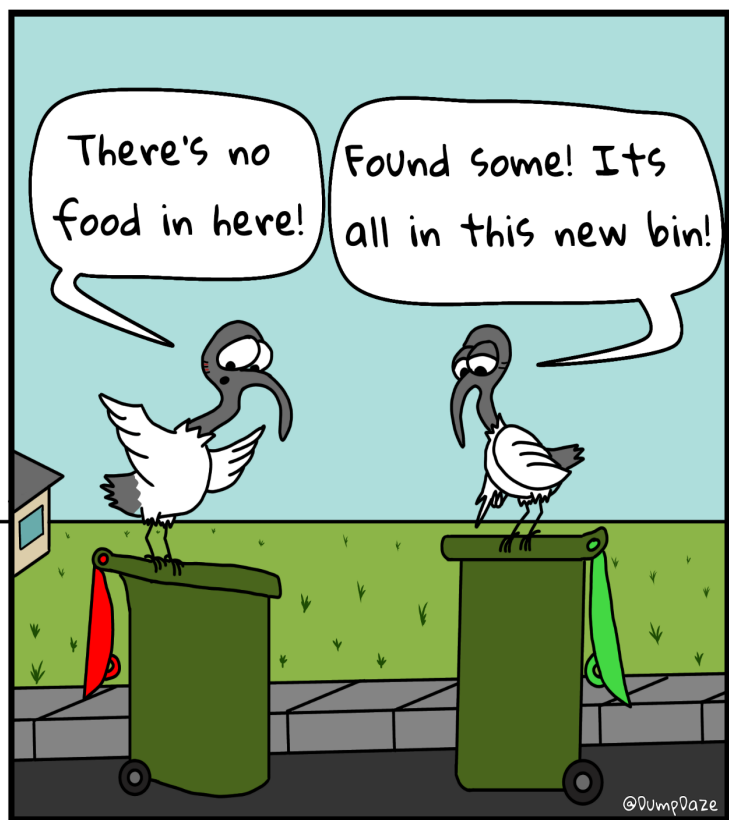


The composting process takes around 16-18 weeks. It is only a few more weeks now until the first batch of compost from the FOGO trial, being processed by contractors NuGrow at Gracemere will be available to local farmers, landscapers and to YOU! This really is the circular economy in action - from paddock to plate, then back to paddock again. Stay tuned!

Remember No bread bags, no fruit stickers, no rubber bands or twisty-ties in your FOGO bins.



MERRY CHRISTMAS FOLKS



HANDY HOLIDAY HINTS

Scan the QR code to check out Rockhampton Regional Council's Sustainability tips for ethical gifts & holistic holiday hosting!



JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We need to hear from you – your experience, good or bad!

This is a trial and you are providing invaluable information to help in determining the future of waste management for our whole community in 2023.

Make your opinion matter and provide us with your contact details (email, mail or phone) so you can choose to participate in various trial feedback options. Provide your details to us by ph: 4932 9000, or enquiries@rrc.qld.gov.au.