

## **What is an organics bin?**

An organics bin is the next step in waste management and is very similar to your current recycling practices. As a part of your kerbside service, a third bin will be introduced for the collection of food and garden waste. Included in this service each household will receive one kitchen caddy and a roll of compostable bag liners to help you collect your household scraps before placing them in the organics bin.

## **Why is the organics bin being introduced?**

The bin is being introduced because food organics makes up a large portion (up to 61 per cent) of the average household's current garbage bin waste and collecting green waste alone does not provide environmental benefits. In collecting garden and food organics, we divert kitchen organics from landfill (while also giving people a disposal option for garden waste), which reduces how fast we fill up the landfill, reduces the greenhouse gas and leachate produced by landfill into the future. These reductions also result in an immediate reduction of EPA levies, saving the community hundreds of thousands of dollars in the short term and potentially millions into the future. This saving benefits rate payers as it allows more funds to be focused on services for the community.

## **Why is it compulsory?**

The service is universal to ensure that economies of scale are met to reduce the cost to community members. By applying the program across all kerbside services, we also ensure we maximise the amount of material diverted from landfill.

## **Why do I have to have the Organics bin?**

The organics bin is simply an upgrade to the current Council kerbside bin collection service for all residents who currently receive the collection, commencing 4 September. The current service is a compulsory service and will remain so with the service upgrade.

## **Does it work? Who else does it?**

This model of organics collection (weekly organics, and fortnightly recycling and garbage) is employed by the following Victorian councils:

- Albury City Council
- Benalla Rural City
- Corowa Shire Council
- City of Wodonga
- Shire of Nillumbik
- Greater Hume Shire
- Indigo Shire Council
- Wangaratta Shire Council
- Towong Shire Council

## **What can I put in the organics bin?**

The organics bin will accept garden pruning's and lawn clippings like a normal green waste bin, but it will also accept any kitchen organic material. The following is a guide to what may be put in the bin:

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Meat scraps and bones
- Fish and seafood (incl. shells)
- Dairy products
- Pasta and rice
- Bread and bread products
- Teabags and coffee grounds
- Tissues and paper towels
- Pet manures and compostable kitty litter
- Lawn clippings
- Garden pruning's (including weeds and rose trimmings)
- Twigs and branches under 100mm in diameter
- Hair

## **What can't I put in the organics bin?**

Man-made products such as plastics, flower pots, hoses, nappies and non-compostable plastic bags cannot go in the organics bin.

## **What do I do with the kitchen caddy and compostable liners?**

The kitchen caddy and compostable liners will be delivered to you prior to the launch of the service. We suggest that the caddy with a compostable liner inside it is placed on the kitchen bench or under the kitchen sink so you can scrape your scraps straight from the chopping board or plate into it. The compostable liners also prevent odour in the organics bin.

A 12-month supply of liners will be provided at the start of the service and additional liners will be available at Council's Customer Service Centres, Transfer Stations and Visitor Information

Centres. Plastic shopping bags or biodegradable plastic bags cannot be used in place of the compostable liners, as plastic bags will contaminate the organics.

### **Will my bin collections change?**

Yes – your garbage (Landfill) bin will now be collected fortnightly rather than weekly and the green lid Organics bin will be collected weekly instead. The garbage (Landfill) and recycling bins will be collected fortnightly on alternating weeks. The waste calendar will identify all of your collection days throughout the year.

### **What if I can't manage weekly Landfill collection?**

Council offers the option to upgrade the Landfill bin from a 120L bin to a 240L bin. The additional charge for this is \$132.50 per year. The bin can be reduced back to a 120L at any time which will remove this charge.

Residents can also arrange for a second recycle bin at a cost of \$76.15 per year and a second organics bin at a cost of \$78.00 per year.

### **What about nappies?**

Residents with concerns about nappy disposal have the option to upgrade the Landfill bin from a 120L bin to a 240L bin. The additional charge for this is \$132.50 per year. Councils waste transfer stations are all open 7 days a week (except Inverloch) and can be used for the disposal of additional waste. Concerns about odour have usually been addressed through ensuring that nappies are wrapped in on themselves and bagged using nappy bags or paper bags. Studies show that nappy odour does not get any worse beyond 4 days.

### **What if I have medical waste?**

Residents with medical waste can contact the Waste Services team to discuss their individual waste needs.

### **Why are we removing the old bins when many seem to be in good condition?**

All Bass Coast branded bins are being replaced as the majority of bins across the Shire are at the end of their lifecycle. Many people do not keep bins under cover and therefore have deteriorated beyond their lifespan. We are also replacing all of the bins as the new bins are rebranded and are barcoded to each individual property which will help with stolen bins, bins being moved around

the Shire, contamination monitoring etc. Another good thing about replacing all of the bins is that we bring all properties into the Australian Standard bin lid colouring. Many landfill bins across the Shire are the one colour when the Australian Standard is Red lid for Landfill.

### **Do I have to surrender my bins?**

All Bass Coast branded bins are the property of Bass Coast Shire Council and do need to be surrendered. If people keep their old bins and put them out for a service collection, they will not be serviced and may be removed.

### **I purchased my bin why do I have to surrender it?**

If a resident purchased their own recycling bin years ago then they do not have to surrender that bin as they own it. We are happy to remove it for them if they do not want to keep it.

### **What happens to the old bins?**

The old bins are sent away to be recycled into new bins and other plastic products.

### **What if I own a business, do I receive the organics bin?**

All businesses that currently receive the Council waste collection service will receive the organics bin as a part of the upgrade to the service.

### **Will landfill waste be collected weekly over summer?**

No, the landfill bin will remain fortnightly. The weekly organics bin will continue to capture the increase in organic waste over this period. For the month of January the recycle collection will be weekly, as it is now.

### **What about holiday homes, tourists don't care?**

It is up to the owner of the holiday rental to ensure that people renting there property are aware of how waste is managed in Bass Coast Shire and to reduce contamination by guests. To ensure the waste needs are met by the holiday rental there are many private contractors available that can provide additional services and collections to meet the in and out going guest requirements.

## **I already compost. How can the organics bin help me?**

If you are already composting, then you already know the benefits of having a good compost pile or backyard worm farm. The organics bin will complement what you are already doing by taking those additional items that are hard to compost or that the worms don't want to eat. These items include:

- Meat products, seafood, bones and
- Citrus fruits
- Cooked foods, oils and fats
- Pet manures
- Diseased plants & weeds
- Excess lawn clippings and leaves