



Town of Bassendean: two-bin service to FOGO three-bin service

October 2021

Background



In July 2020, the Town of Bassendean became the first metropolitan local government north of the Swan River to roll out a three-bin kerbside collection system, which includes the separation of food organics and garden organics (FOGO) from other waste categories.

Rollout of the new system was successfully completed in early August 2020.

The new three-bin system includes:

- 240 litre lime green-lidded FOGO bin, collected weekly
- 140 litre red-lidded general waste bin, collected fortnightly
- 240 litre yellow-lidded recycling bin, collected fortnightly

Residents were provided with a seven litre kitchen caddy, two rolls of 100 compostable liners, and a FOGO three-bin information pack.

The compost produced from the new FOGO bin can be used to improve crop yields and replenish Western Australia's soil in both commercial and residential gardens. The new three-bin system will enable the town to meet the State Government's waste reduction target that by 2030, 75 per cent of waste is diverted from landfill and recovered.





Engagement and education

Residents were advised about the new FOGO service 18 months ahead of its introduction, and kept up to date via advertising in the town's bi-monthly newsletter, [Thrive](#).

Issue 1	August 2019	two-page spread on FOGO three-bin system
Issue 2	October 2019	one page on recycling bins; an article on businesses reducing waste
Issue 3	December 2019	tips for a low-waste Christmas; recycling crossword competition
Issue 4	February 2020	front page and three-page spread about FOGO
Issue 5	April 2020	two pages on FOGO, two 'meet the locals' pages, demonstrating how local community members reduce waste at home

The town uses the tools provided in the [WasteSorted toolkit](#) and provides a link to [Recycle Right](#) on its website.

Other methods of engagement and education include:

- instructional video on three bins (FOGO)
- [Channel 10 news clip](#) on the FOGO rollout in the Town of Bassendean
- information stall at shopping centres, train stations and the town's monthly market
- site visits to concerned residents before and after the rollout
- short informative social media videos.

Financials

To support the introduction of the three-bin FOGO service, the Town of Bassendean received funding under the State Government's Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program.

The initial budget for the project was increased as a visual audit of the existing bin stock found the bins were not suitable to be re-lidded for FOGO. Many were at or near to the end of their useful life and required replacing.

There was no change to the standard waste charge for residents.

An option was added for residents to choose to have a 240 litre general waste bin for an additional \$90 per annum.

Outcome

Most of the community responded positively to the change to FOGO. This is largely due to the town's early messaging about FOGO's rollout and the new system's benefits.

FOGO is treated and processed at the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council's Red Hill Waste Management Facility.

Previously, the town was recovering only 17 per cent of its kerbside waste streams. With the introduction of FOGO, the recovery rate is expected to increase to more than 60 per cent.

Challenges

The COVID19 pandemic impacted the town's ability to meet in person and provide engaging public activities. A short delay was required to reassess these measures and provide alternatives to face-to-face engagement.

The pandemic also interrupted the supply of compostable liners from China. A local source for compostable bags was used, which increased costs.

Insights

Whether to supply liners and caddies to residents is a significant decision, and analysis of the options should be undertaken by the town or city and included in guidance materials. The Town of Bassendean chose to supply liners to reduce the likelihood of plastic bags being used in their absence.

Guidance is also required on supporting the new three-bin system once it has been introduced. Template rollout plans, communications plans, marketing collateral and checklists would be useful for local governments rolling out FOGO. Guidance on better practice methods for dealing with FOGO contamination and ongoing community engagement measures would also be beneficial.