



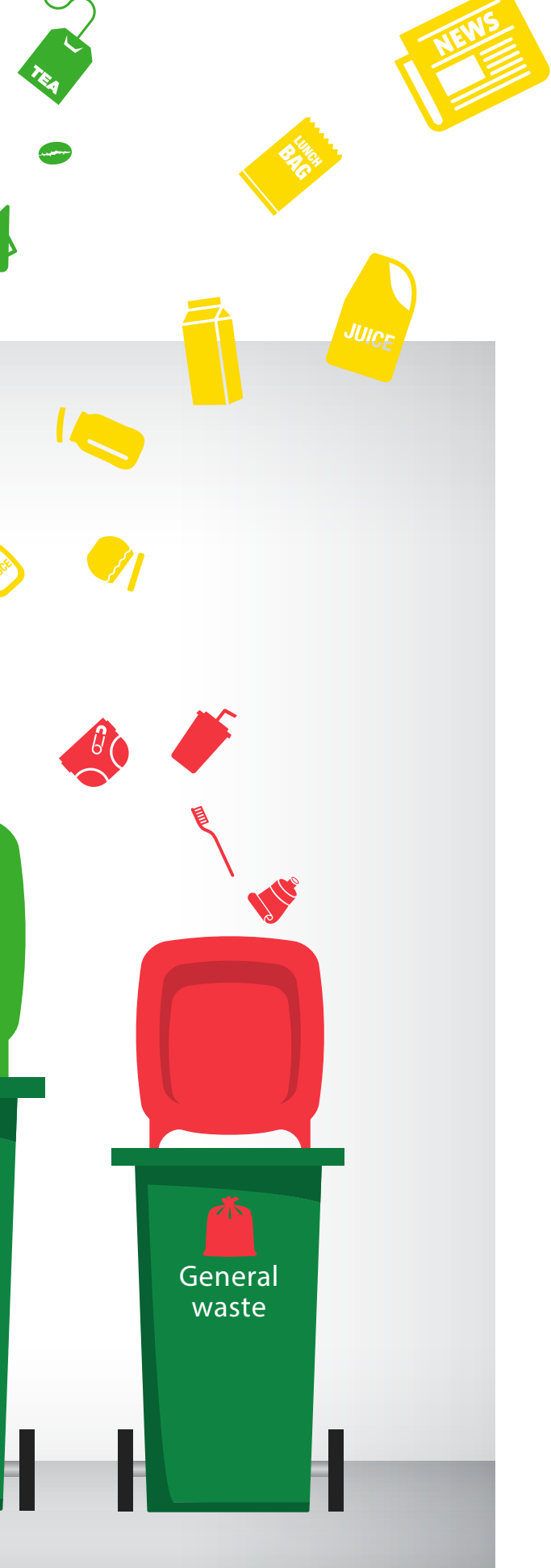
Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO

Funding guidelines



The Waste Authority is charged with promoting better waste management practices in Western Australia under the *Waste Avoidance and Resources Recovery Act 2007*. One of the Authority's functions under the Act is to draft, for the Minister for Environment's approval, a long-term waste strategy for the whole of the state for continuous improvement of waste services, waste avoidance and resource recovery, benchmarked against best practice and targets for waste reduction, resource recovery and the diversion of waste from landfill disposal. The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* was released on 10 February 2019. The Waste Authority publishes position statements from time to time. Position statements formalise the views of the Waste Authority and may be used to inform decisions relevant to the Waste Authority's role in implementing the strategy.





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Foreword



Adoption of high performing food organics and garden organics (FOGO) bin systems by local governments is the single biggest contribution they can make to achieving material recovery targets for municipal household waste in Western Australia. This is a critical step in moving towards a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy in Western Australia.

The Government of Western Australia's (State Government) *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (waste strategy) includes a target to deliver three-bin FOGO services in the Perth and Peel regions by 2025. Ensuring organics do not end up in landfill is also important for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting Australian Government and State Government climate change objectives. We are making good progress, with local governments adopting FOGO in both metropolitan and regional areas, and the results illustrate the substantial benefits to residents and the state.

A three-bin service that includes FOGO can achieve recovery rates of more than 65 per cent, or even higher if residual waste undergoes further treatment for recovery. Most residents are also using it correctly, frequently demonstrating low contamination rates. As local governments have found, this is much higher performance than other bin systems.

Western Australians want FOGO and they want support in minimising their impact on the environment. A 2022 Waste Authority survey of 1,000 households showed that 92 per cent of

Western Australians supported having access to FOGO bins.

Most local governments across the Perth and Peel regions have either already adopted FOGO or are committed to rolling out the service by 2025. Adoption of FOGO by local governments is supported through a revised Better Bins program, Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO (Better Bins Plus), launched in May 2020.

After three years of successfully implementing Better Bins Plus, the Waste Authority has revised the program to provide greater funding support to local governments by increasing the rates to \$25 and \$15 per household (depending on whether they have already benefited from earlier Better Bins program funding). In addition, the funding rounds formerly run between February and March annually are now open all year round.

Some local governments offering FOGO services have found success by reducing reliance on, and costs associated with, landfill disposal and increasing their kerbside recovery rates dramatically in a short time. Implementing FOGO also provides a great opportunity for local governments to engage with their communities and build relationships, creating sustainable waste behaviours.

Local use of high-quality composts produced through community FOGO efforts is a very powerful way to demonstrate the local and tangible rewards for using FOGO systems, moving towards a circular economy, and living more sustainably.

I encourage all Western Australian local governments to take advantage of the revised Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program, meet the growing expectations of residents, and play their role in the national movement towards a low-waste, low-carbon future.



Elizabeth Carr AM
Waste Authority Chair



1. Overview

1.1 Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO

The Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO (Better Bins Plus) program is a State Government initiative, delivered by the Waste Authority. The program supports local governments to provide better practice three-bin kerbside collection systems with a separate food organics garden organics (FOGO) service.

Better Bins Plus supports a headline commitment in Western Australia's *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030* (waste strategy) to have a consistent three-bin kerbside collection system, which includes separation of food organics and garden organics from other waste categories. Our aim is for all local governments in the Perth and Peel regions to provide three-bin FOGO services by 2025.

The Waste Authority's *Better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines* (FOGO collection guidelines) describe better practice three-bin kerbside collection services, including details of mobile garbage bins, kitchen caddies and liners, complementary measures and actions to support markets for FOGO-derived materials. Better Bins Plus provides funding to local governments that

deliver kerbside services consistent with the [Better Practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines](#).

Better Bins Plus follows the Better Bins program, which encouraged local governments to provide a three-bin system (general waste, co-mingled recycling, organic/green waste) to support greater source separation and higher recovery. As a result of Better Bins, a significant number of households receive a three-bin kerbside system.

Better Bins Plus builds on the Better Bins program by providing funding to support FOGO services. The program targets kitchen caddies and liners (identified as being important to a high-performing service) in the first instance, and complementary measures to improve the performance of the service. The program also encourages local governments to 'close the loop' by using FOGO-derived products in a local government area.

Better Bins Plus will pay local governments \$25 or \$15 for each household that receives a better practice three-bin FOGO collection service.

Key principles

Key principles adopted in the design of the Better Bins program are retained in the design of the Better Bins Plus program:

encourage the adoption of evidence-based better practice services

promote source separation to improve the quality and value of recycling streams

ensure early adopters are not financially disadvantaged

provide funding to be used for new spending to implement and/or improve the performance of kerbside systems (i.e. no retrospective funding)

make payments based on actual services provided per household

implement the use of Australian standard bin colours

implement the use of complementary measures to support the performance of services

2. How the program works

2.1 Kerbside service requirements

The Waste Authority's FOGO collection guidelines provide details of high performing three-bin FOGO kerbside services. The guidelines include details of:

- three-bin FOGO collection services – including bin types/volumes, collection frequencies, kitchen assets (caddies) and consumables (compostable liners)
- complementary measures – including education and engagement actions to support the implementation of FOGO services
- market development actions – to support the production of high-quality FOGO-derived products and support end markets for FOGO-derived products.

Better Bins Plus offers a funding amount to local governments based on the number of households receiving a three-bin FOGO service, consistent with the FOGO collection guidelines. Table 1 provides details of minimum service requirements for Better Bins Plus funding.

Better Bins Plus targets mobile garbage bins, kitchen caddies and compostable liners in the first instance (see section 2.3, Investment Type A)


because kitchen caddies and liners are consistent with high-performing FOGO services.

Local governments that have already purchased these items must direct funding to complementary mechanisms (Investment Type B) to support the roll out of FOGO services. Better Bins Plus funding must be applied to new expenditure.

► Notes:

- Table 1 describes services to standard single-unit dwellings. A standard single-unit dwelling is a household which receives a separate kerbside service on block sizes no less than 320–400 metres squared.
- To be eligible for Better Bins Plus funding, a local government's standard service should be consistent with Table 1. A standard service is the main service provided by the local government to households.
- The funding conditions (section 4) provide details of how local governments can apply for funding for services which vary from the minimum service requirements in Table 1.

Table 1: Minimum service requirements – Better Bins Plus



	Mobile Garbage Bins		
	Residual / General waste Red lid	Co-mingled recycling Yellow lid	FOGO Lime Green lid
Preferred bin volume	80, 120 or 140 litres	240 or 360 litres	240 litres
Preferred collection frequency	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Weekly
Equivalent collection volume per week	Maximum 70 litres	Minimum 120 litres	Minimum 240 litres
Kitchen asset and consumables			
Kitchen caddies	5 to 8 litres		
Kitchen caddie liners	AS4736-2006 for compostable and biodegradable plastics		



2.2 Funding rates

Better Bins Plus provides incentives to local governments to implement services before the 2025 target date for three-bin FOGO services.

Two funding amounts are offered: a higher amount for local governments that have not received Better Bins funding (\$25 per household) and a lower amount for local governments that have received, or have been awarded, Better Bins funding (\$15 per household).

The higher amount available through Better Bins Plus acknowledges that these local governments have not previously accessed funding for better practice kerbside services.

2.2.1 Funding for new projects

For new local government applicants, the fixed rates of \$25 or \$15 per household will apply across all years. Funding applications can be made at any time of the financial year prior to 31 March 2026.

2.2.2 Top-up grants for closed projects

For local governments that have already delivered their initial Better Bins Plus project, a top-up payment to the maximum grant rates of \$25 or \$15 per household will be applied. If there is a resulting top-up payment, the local government will be eligible for funding, but it will be delivered

as a new project and supported by a project plan. For further information please contact the Program Coordinator.

2.2.3 Funding for current projects

For projects that are now underway, the fixed grant rates of \$25 or \$15 per household will be applied through a variation to the grant value. For further information please contact the Program Coordinator.

Figure 1: Better Bins Plus funding rate (per household)





2.3 Investment priorities

A key objective of Better Bins Plus is to support local governments with the infrastructure costs associated with moving to a three-bin FOGO system. Investment priorities ensure that Better Bins Plus funds are allocated, in the first instance, to optimise the rollout of better practice services to standard single-unit dwellings as described in Table 1. Implementation of three-bin services in multi-dwelling developments are also funded by this program. Further details are provided in section 4.2.

Once a local government can demonstrate that optimal provision of kerbside services has been achieved consistent with Table 1, remaining funds may be applied to complementary measures which aim to improve the performance of the service.

It is important to note that Better Bins Plus funds cannot be applied retrospectively. If a local government has already invested in services consistent with Table 1, it cannot apply Better Bins Plus funds to those investments. However, Investment Type B allows local governments access to funds which can be used to invest in improving the performance of the service.

Investment priority	Expenditure of funds
Investment Type A Optimise the rollout of better practice FOGO services to single-unit dwellings.	Infrastructure to achieve minimum service requirements as described in Table 1.
Investment Type B Complementary measures.	Complementary measures which target the performance of the three-bin FOGO system described in Table 1.

2.4 Complementary measures

The [Better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines](#) provide details of complementary measures, which refer to a range of actions to support the effective implementation of a kerbside collection service. Complementary measures include communications with households (such as education to support correct disposal behaviours), compliance actions, and monitoring and evaluation processes. These actions are important to support correct recycling and disposal behaviours and manage the performance of the system.

Key considerations in communicating with the community include:

- clearly explaining the system – why, when and how it is being implemented – including the materials which can go in each kerbside bin, collection frequencies and the materials that should be disposed of via other services
- communicating how the system will be monitored and evaluated
- ensuring consistent messaging across all communications platforms (written materials, websites)
- developing targeted messaging for sections of the community that may require additional support – for example, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and sections of the community with poor recycling behaviours.

Additionally, local governments consistently achieving a 65 per cent kerbside recovery rate over two or more years are eligible to create communications that align with overarching messaging on waste and recycling. For example, this may include communications that support waste avoidance or reuse messaging (such as reuse shops), and other waste and recycling services provided by local governments or other service providers.



2.5 Market development

An effective complementary measures plan should enable local governments to monitor the performance of the service and respond to any issues (such as low recovery or high contamination) that are preventing the achievement of better practice performance.

Better Bins Plus participants are required to develop and implement a complementary measures plan. Better Bins Plus applicants should indicate in the application form the types of measures that the local government will include in its complementary measures plan.

The FOGO collection guidelines identify that strong markets for FOGO-derived products are important to the successful rollout of three-bin FOGO services. The guidelines identify local government actions – such as managing contamination, engaging with preferred service providers, and procuring/using FOGO-derived products – to support end markets to help ‘close the loop’.

The Waste Authority releases annual FOGO rollout plans outlining actions to support FOGO-derived products in priority markets such as agriculture, mine rehabilitation, parks and gardens, urban amenity and infrastructure projects. Market development actions include cases studies profiling the use of products, and projects to better manage contamination.

The Waste Authority may ask local governments to report the actions they are undertaking to support the use of FOGO-derived products in their local community.



3. Application, claims and payment process

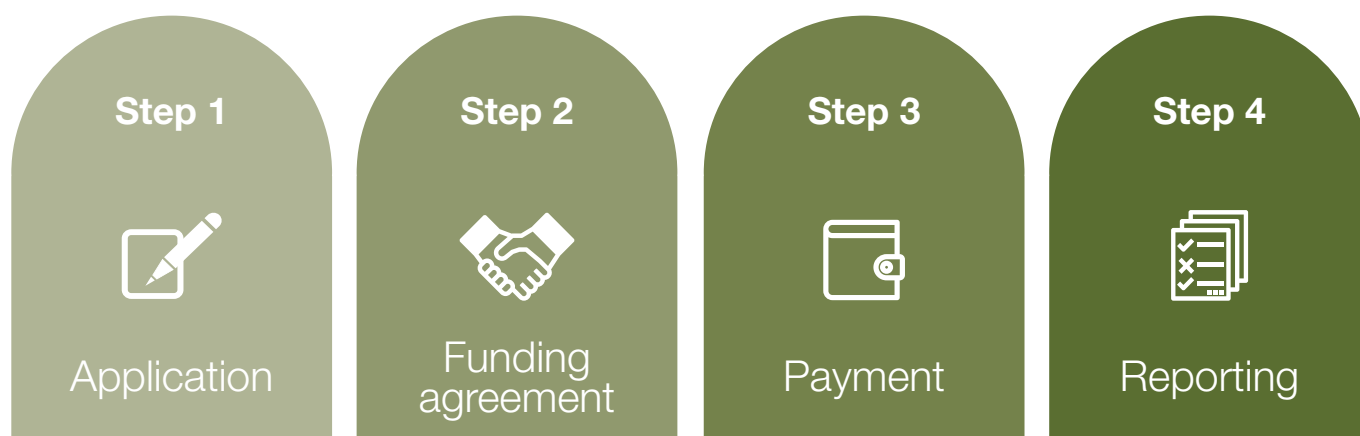
3.1 Context

Better Bins Plus payments are designed to ensure that the Waste Authority can manage cash flow within each financial year. The payment method described in this section is designed to:

- accommodate all claims in each year noting that total value of claims may be different to the amount allocated in each year's budget
- ensure that WARR Account¹ funding is expended on waste strategy priorities in each year, regardless of the total value of Better Bins Plus claims made in a year.

3.2 Payment principles

- The Waste Authority's better practice kerbside services budget should be expended in each financial year irrespective of the value of claims received in each year.
- If funding claims for better practice kerbside services exceed the allocated budget in a financial year, Better Bins Plus claims will be paid to local governments on a pro-rata basis with the balance deferred to a subsequent year.
- If funding claims for better practice kerbside services are below the allocated budget in a financial year, surplus funds will be redirected to other waste strategy priorities.
- The Waste Authority encourages Better Bins Plus funding claims to be received and approved early in each financial year to enable each year's budget to be managed (i.e. either expended or redirected).
- The Waste Authority encourages Better Bins Plus payments to local governments to be made early in a financial year based on the number of households scheduled to receive a three-bin FOGO service in the financial year.
- The annual reporting process allows for any adjustments between planned and actual services provided in a financial year.



¹ Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account established under section 79 of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.



Step 1 Application



Local governments submit applications via the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's [SmartyGrants Portal](#).

Applications may be submitted at any time during the financial year and should be finalised prior to the close of the financial year on 30 June.

Successful applicants will receive payments as detailed in the funding agreement and funding allocation is awarded on a first-in, first-served basis. Applicants should indicate the number of households scheduled to receive three-bin FOGO services.

Step 2 Funding agreement



A funding agreement will be developed with the applicant for the duration of the local government's Better Bins Plus commitments.

The funding agreement will include the number of households scheduled to receive three-bin FOGO services.

Local governments should aim to provide three-bin FOGO services consistent with the schedule in the funding agreement.

Step 3 Payments



By 31 July in each year of the program, the Waste Authority will consider the total **combined** claims received from all Better Bins Plus applicants deemed eligible for Better Bins Plus funding.

- If total combined claims of eligible applicants **are less than** the better practice kerbside collection budget in that year, local governments will be paid in full, and surplus funds may be redirected to other waste strategy priorities.
- If total combined claims **exceed** the better practice kerbside collection budget in that year, local governments will be paid on a pro-rata basis with the balance deferred to a subsequent year.

Any deferred payments will generate a liability in the following financial year which will be drawn from the program budget in that year. Local governments should note that the deferred liability may reduce funds available to the program in future years.

Step 4 Reporting



By 31 July in each year, local governments must report the total number of households that received the three-bin FOGO service in the previous financial year.

If the number of services provided by a local government is lower than the number of services scheduled, the Waste Authority will adjust payments relating to the previous financial year. After adjustments are made for the previous financial year, the Waste Authority will then calculate claims for the current financial year as per Step 3.

If a local government delivers services to a lower number of households than stated in the funding agreement, and that is the final year of the project and/or funding agreement, local governments may be required to return any excess funding provided to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account.

► Notes:

- As per funding condition 4.6, Better Bins Plus funds must be applied to new activities from the project commencement date in the funding agreement.
- In 2025–26, the final year of the program, deferred payments from previous years may reduce the amount available to local governments. Local governments may share any available funding on a pro-rata basis unless additional funding is approved beyond the 2025–26 financial year.

4. Funding conditions

4.1 Standard services – Better Bins Plus

Table 1 describes minimum service requirements for Better Bins Plus funding. To be eligible for Better Bins Plus funding, a local government's standard service provided to a standard single-unit dwelling should be consistent with Table 1.

- A 'standard service' is described as the main service provided by the local government to households.
- A 'standard single-unit dwelling' is a household which receives a separate kerbside service on block sizes no less than 320–400 metres squared.

4.2 Variation to standard services

Better practice recognises that services may need to vary from the standard service to accommodate particular household configurations or individual circumstances, such as households with special needs.

Local governments wishing to access Better Bins Plus funding for services that vary from the standard service described in Table 1 must demonstrate to the Waste Authority how the proposed service/s:

- will deliver outcomes consistent with better practice
- how a variation can be implemented without undermining the objectives in the waste strategy to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours
- accommodates particular household configurations or individual circumstances

The following scenarios are provided to guide decisions about services which vary from those described in Table 1.



Non-standard single-unit dwellings:

Better practice guidance (Table 1) relates to households described as standard single-unit dwellings. Better practice guidance is not available for other dwelling types such as small households, multi-unit dwellings or dwellings with shared services.

A local government will be eligible for services provided to households that are not standard single-unit dwellings if the local government can demonstrate to the Waste Authority:

- that the households to which proposed services will be provided are not standard single-unit dwellings
- how the proposed service/s will deliver outcomes consistent with better practice
- how a variation can be implemented without undermining the objectives in the waste strategy to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.



Local governments outside of Perth and Peel:

Local governments outside of the Perth and Peel regions may phase in services over a period of time (for example, from their current service to a two-bin service followed by a three-bin service).

A local government outside of the Perth and Peel regions will be eligible for funding for phasing in services if the local government commits to providing services consistent with Table 1 by 31 December 2025, and can demonstrate to the Waste Authority:

- how the proposed service/s will deliver outcomes consistent with better practice
- how a variation can be implemented without undermining the objectives in the waste strategy to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

The funding rates for services that transition over time are as follows:

- from no kerbside service to a single-bin service – 33.3 per cent of the funding rate in the year in which the service is provided
- from no kerbside service or a single-bin service to a two-bin service – 66.6 per cent of the funding rate in the year in which the service is provided.

Food only (FO) services:

Garden waste services may not be suitable in a local government area where most dwellings are high density and the predominant organics stream is food waste.

A local government will be eligible for funding for FO services rather than FOGO services if the local government can demonstrate to the Waste Authority:

- that most dwellings in the local government area are high-density dwellings and the predominant organics stream is food waste

- how the proposed service/s will deliver outcomes consistent with better practice
- how a variation can be implemented without undermining the objectives in the waste strategy to support consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.

4.3 Complementary measures

The better practice FOGO kerbside collection guidelines provide details of complementary measures. A better practice three-bin FOGO system should be supported by complementary measures, documented in a plan, to support the effective implementation of the kerbside service.

Local governments will develop a complementary measures plan to support the effective implementation of the kerbside service. The complementary measures plan should include actions relating to communications, compliance, monitoring and evaluation.





4.4 Market development

The FOGO collection guidelines identify market development actions for FOGO-derived products. The FOGO Reference Group, established by the Waste Authority, will consider opportunities to develop and support markets for FOGO-derived products across different sectors.

The Waste Authority may ask local governments to report their market development actions, with reference to any guidance provided by the reference group.

4.5 Eligibility

The Better Bins Plus program is available to all Western Australian local governments.

Local governments must have no outstanding levy payments as required under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008.

Local governments must have completed and submitted the most recent annual Local Government Waste and Recycling Services Census to be eligible for funding.

Where relevant, local governments must have must have completed and submitted a waste plan and the most recent annual waste plan report as required under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.

4.6 Application of funds

Better Bins Plus funds must be applied to new activities from the project commencement date as per the funding agreement.



4.7 Reporting

Funding recipients will be required to provide reports to verify project details and expenditure.

4.8 Acknowledgement

The Waste Authority's acknowledgment guidelines will be included as part of the funding agreement.

4.9 Amendments

The Waste Authority reserves the right to update Better Bins Plus program details by way of addendum to this funding guide or the FOGO collection guidelines.

The Waste Authority reserves the right, at its absolute discretion, to withhold funds claimed under the program to entities that it reasonably determines do not meet these eligibility requirements.

Contact

Waste Authority

C/O Department of Water and Environmental
Regulation
Level 7, Prime House
8 Davidson Terrace, Joondalup
Locked Bag 10, JOONDALUP DC WA 6919
Tel: (08) 6364 6965
Email: info@wasteauthority.wa.gov.au

How to apply

Applicants are encouraged to contact the Better Bins Plus Program Coordinator to discuss the project and obtain the application form.

The application form will capture details of a local government's proposed kerbside services with reference to details in this funding guide and details in the FOGO collection guidelines.

Applications must be authorised by the CEO of the local government.

Further information is available from:

- [Waste Authority website](#)
- [Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program](#).

The Waste Authority reserves the right to request additional details that may not be included in the application form.

