



1. What is this Project all about?

Coolamon, Cootamundra, Gundagai and Junee Shire Councils are working together with the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) to establish a regional organics processing facility. The councils want to test the feasibility of the project by first running a Trial. 200 households in each Shire have been chosen to participate in the Trial and your household has been selected to be part of the Trial.

In order to establish the facility, which will be located in Cootamundra Shire, the participating councils are introducing a dedicated organic waste collection. This means that each of the households that are part of the Trial will be given a new 240 litre bin to be used for all their organic and green waste (garden waste), which will be collected once a fortnight. Each household has also been given a benchtop bin and bin liners to help collect each household's food waste.

Food and green waste makes up about 60% of household waste. Councils must pay to dispose of waste so if we can stop taking this type of waste to landfills then we can save money. Separating waste into three different categories (organics, recyclables and residual) will reduce waste going to landfill and increase recycling.

In addition organic waste, when placed in landfill, produces methane gas which has over 20 times the global warming potential than carbon dioxide. So removing organic waste helps the environment and is an essential step in building a sustainable future.

2. What is organic/food waste?

Organic waste is any waste that was originally from a plant or animal. This includes all food waste including fish, meat and bones, tea bags and coffee grounds and leftover foods (cooked or raw). It also includes green waste which is the waste produced in your garden including grass clippings, twigs, weeds, leaves and flowers.



Frequently asked
questions



Frequently asked questions

3. So what are the 3 bins for?

The new bin with the bright green lid is for food and green waste, the bin with the dark green lid (in Coolamon, Junee and Gundagai) or the yellow lid (in Cootamundra) is for recyclables and the remaining bin with the red lid is for everything else.

The new 3 bin system offers a greater total bin capacity for each household than under the two bin system. It allows councils to meet targets set by the State Government for all local councils to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

4. What are the small benchtop bin and the bin liners for?

The benchtop bin and bin liners have been provided to help you to collect your household's food waste.

The bin liners are for use in the small benchtop bin. The liners are biodegradable and will break down in the composting process. Line your benchtop bin with a bin liner and when it is full, seal the bag and drop it straight into the 240 litre organics bin.

You have been given sufficient bin liners to last for 6 months. If you do run out of bin liners please contact your participating council to obtain some more. The bin liners are provided free of charge. Using the bin liners will help keep the odours down and flies away from the waste.

Each of the bin liners is individually numbered, the number tells us which house the waste came from and will be used to pick the winners of the fortnightly prizes. It will also help us audit the Trial collection to determine how successful it is. The benchtop bins are dishwasher safe.

5. What can I put in my bright green lid organics bin that is emptied FORTNIGHTLY?

All organic and green waste. This includes all food and garden vegetation, including fish, meat and bones, tea bags and coffee grounds, leftover foods (cooked or raw) as well as green waste which includes grass clippings, twigs, weeds and flowers. Tissues, paper towel and pet excrement are also acceptable. Do not put any plastic bags, recyclable materials or household garbage into the organics bin. Please don't pack your bin too tightly as it can become stuck making collection difficult.

6. What can I put in my recycling bin that is emptied FORTNIGHTLY?

All paper, cardboard, glass bottles & jars, steel cans, aluminium cans, milk & juice cartons, and plastic bottles, tubs and jars. Do not put in polystyrene foam, nappies, plastic kitchenware (like 'tupperware'), building waste or organic waste in your recycling bin.

7. What can I put in my red lid general garbage bin that is emptied WEEKLY?

Any household waste that is neither organic nor recyclable. Do not place building waste, commercial waste, hot ashes, or liquids in your bin.

8. What is Council doing with the waste that's collected?

The waste will be taken to a regional facility in Cootamundra where it will be processed and become compost. The participating councils will then decide whether to use the compost or sell it.

9. What are the fortnightly prizes?

One participating household in each Shire will win a prize of a \$50 voucher each fortnight. The participating council will select a numbered bin liner bag at random from the participating households in each Shire and providing the contents of the bag are free of contamination, the household that used that numbered bag will win the prize.



10. How long is the Trial for?

The Trial will commence on 1 August 2011 and will conclude on 31st January 2012. The first collection will be on Friday 5 August for Coolamon and Junee and Monday 8 August for Gundagai and Cootamundra.

11. What will happen when the Trial is finished?

Councils will be continually assessing the effectiveness of the Trial. Prior to the Trial's completion you will be notified about whether or not the new collections will be continued.

Organics Bin

Bright green lid

USE THE
COMPOSTABLE
BIN LINERS
& WIN!

Food waste including:

- seafood, meat and chicken scraps including fat and bones
- dairy products & egg shells
- leftover foods
- fruit and vegetable waste
- cereals, grains, pasta, breads, cakes & pastries
- coffee grounds & tea bags

Garden waste including:

- grass clippings & weeds
- leaves, flowers
- twigs and sticks
- prunings

Other organic waste including:

- paper towel, paper plates & serviettes
- tissues
- shredded paper
- fish & chip paper
- pet excrement wrapped in paper or loose
- hair & fur



Please DO NOT place plastic bags, nappies, polystyrene foam or medical waste in your organics bin.

General Waste Bin

Red lid

- plastic bags & packets
- plastic film including cling wrap & cellophane
- polystyrene foam
- kitchenware
- disposable nappies
- medical & personal hygiene waste
- broken crockery, glassware & pyrex
- light bulbs
- toothbrushes & toothpaste tubes
- textiles & rubber
- cassette tapes, CDs & DVDs
- Other domestic waste

Recycling Bin

Dark green lid in Coolamon, Junee & Gundagai

Yellow lid in Cootamundra

- plastic bottles, tubs & jars
- glass bottles & jars
- steel & aerosol cans
- aluminium cans, clean aluminium foil & pie trays
- milk & juice cartons
- paper including newspapers, magazines, & window faced envelopes
- cardboard including egg cartons & pizza boxes (empty)



Please ensure all containers are empty - there is no need to rinse them out.



Remove lid and crush all plastic bottles, flatten cardboard so you can fit more recyclables into your bin.



Please DO NOT place plastic bags, nappies, polystyrene foam, Tupperware, building waste, medical waste, food waste or garden waste in your recycling bin.

12. What if I put the wrong things in my bin?

If incorrect material is placed in the organics bin, a notification will be sent to your home address. If this occurs a second time, you will receive another notification. If incorrect material is placed in your bin for a third time, then your bin will not be collected unless the contamination is removed.

Please remember that it is in everyone's interest that the organics bin is not contaminated with plastics or other non-organic matter.

Don't hesitate to contact Council if you are not sure what to put in the bin.



13. I compost already. I don't need the organics bin.

The organics bin provides you with the opportunity to dispose of additional organic waste. You can put meat scraps, bones, seafood waste, dairy foods, weeds, excess grass clippings and small woody prunings (they should be no bigger than your little finger) into the organics bin which often cause problems in home compost/ worm farm systems.

14. I have my lawns and garden maintained by a contractor who takes the garden waste away. I do not need an organics bin.

The organics bin is for food waste as well as garden waste. Food waste is a valuable resource for composting. Having an organics bin means that Council can collect food waste including meat and bones, left over dairy foods, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, tea bags, egg shells and food-soiled paper towel. Your garden contractor may be charging you a fee to dispose of your garden waste, if so why not ask your contractor to put the waste in your organics bin?

For further information contact your local council



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or visit www.waste.reroc.com.au

