

Food & Garden Waste Service

Expanded service

1. What is changing?

From 1 July food scraps belong in the garden organics bin along with garden waste and the bin will be renamed the food and garden waste bin.

2. What is staying the same?

The food and garden waste bin will continue to be for garden waste, collected fortnightly and will remain an opt-in service. There will be no changes to the current collection days.

3. How much is the food and garden waste bin?

For 2019/20 financial year, the food and garden waste bin is \$1.06 a week or \$54.90 for a year.

4. Why is this happening?

More than half of what Campaspe sends to landfill from kerbside general waste bins is food and garden waste. This is a valuable resource which can be recovered and reused as compost rather than just being thrown away. Food and garden waste in landfill also creates methane, which is 25 times more damaging to our environment than carbon dioxide. You can find out more by visiting www.backtoearth.vic.gov.au.

5. Where will material from the food and garden waste bin end up?

From 1 July, all material from the food and garden waste bins (green bin) will be turned into a compost product by Biomix in Stanhope and will be used on Victorian gardens, parks and farms. Biomix already composts food and garden waste from councils in Victoria and council is proud to be joining this method of waste management, which represents best practice across the state.

6. Has the community been consulted regarding these changes?

A community survey, both online by phone, was conducted in December 2018 to gauge the attitudes and opinions of the community towards the garden organics bin. Data from this survey, as well as input from five community focus groups, has helped develop the food and garden waste service.

7. I already compost, why should I get the food and garden waste bin?

The food and garden waste bin will accept all food scraps including those that cannot be composted in backyard composts such as: seafood, meat, bones, dairy products, bread, cereal, pasta and rice as well as all leftover foods (cooked and raw). The food and garden waste bin can also be used for food scraps when compost bins, bokashi bins or worm farms are resting or are at capacity.

8. I don't have much food waste, why should I get the food and garden waste bin?

The food and garden waste bin will accept all food scraps, every little bit counts! There are benefits to recycling food waste, no matter how small the amount is. Even small amounts contribute to the creation of nutrient-rich compost and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases created when it is sent to landfill.

9. Can I take food waste to a transfer station?

No, only garden waste is accepted at Campaspe transfer stations. Food waste cannot be accepted at transfer stations and must be placed loose or in compostable bags (with AS 4736 only) into the green bin.

10. Are other councils in Victoria putting their food waste into the green bin?

Yes, more than 40 councils in Victoria now have a food and garden waste service. This number has increased in current years due to the rising cost of landfill and also to recover a valuable resource that was, until now, being wasted in landfill.

11. What CAN go into the food and garden waste bin from 1 July?

- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Seafood, fish, meat and bones
- Egg shells
- Dairy products (ie – cheese)
- Bread, cereal, pasta and rice
- Tea bags and coffee grounds
- All leftover foods (cooked and raw)
- All processed foods (ie – pizza crusts, etc)
- Used paper towel, tissues and napkins
- Lawn clippings
- Garden prunings (including weeds and rose trimmings)
- Twigs and branches (under 100mm in diameter)
- Animal poo
- Compostable bags (only AS 4736 with seedling symbol accepted)

12. What CANNOT go into the food and garden waste bin from 1 July?

- Plastic or biodegradable bags (do not break down in the commercial composting process)
- Food packaging including cling wrap
- Nappies (including compostable and biodegradable)
- Baby wipes/makeup wipes
- Glass
- Plastics
- Liquids
- Metal (bottle caps, gardening tools, wire, etc)
- Gardening tools (shovels, plastic pots, etc)

13. Can I put my pet poo in my green bin?

Yes. You can either wrap it in newspaper, or use approved compostable dog bags. These bags have the Australian Standard code (AS 4736) with seedling logo on them.



14. I live outside the town boundary, can I request a food and garden waste bin and food scrap caddy?

No, rural residents are unable to have a food and garden waste bin. Many rural residents are located a distance from the closest town and current serviced area that is too great to be financially viable for the contractor to service and would make the bin too expensive for all residents. Rural residents also have many other options in dealing with their food and garden waste such as feeding material to pets and livestock, composting, mulching and burning.

15. I live in a unit, can I get a smaller food and garden waste bin?

At the moment, the green bin is only available in the large size (240 litre). Smaller bin size options are being explored. If you'd like to express your interest in getting a smaller bin, please contact council.

16. Do your current kerbside bins suit your needs?

Did you know you can downsize your General Waste (red bin) and save money? Downsizing from a medium bin (140 litre) to a small bin (80 litre) can save you around \$50 a year! To downsize, please order online at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au (lodge a service request) or contact council's customer service team.



Food & Garden Waste Service

Food Scrap Caddy and Compostable Bags

1. When will I be notified of the changes and asked to choose a free food scrap caddy?

Letters will be sent to residents with a green bin service and without a green bin service in early May.

2. Why do I get a choice of food scrap caddy?

Caddy choices will be offered to residents within the town boundary to assist you in taking food scraps from the kitchen to the green bin. Choices are provided recognising that people manage their food scraps differently.

3. What types of caddy choices are there?

Three caddy choices are offered.

Option 1 - a closed food scrap caddy – no compostable bags will come with this choice.

Option 2 - an aerated caddy with 1 roll of 150 compostable bags.

Option 3 - no caddy – you may already have a system/caddy at home that you would prefer to use.

Caddy options



4. Option 1 - Will council provide compostable bags with the closed food scrap caddy option?

No. The closed caddy does not require compostable bags as it can simply be rinsed out and reused. You can choose to use compostable bags in your closed caddy, however, compostable bags break down quicker in closed caddies and will need to be taken to the green bin more frequently (ie - 1-2 days instead of 3-4, or as necessary). A list of where to purchase Australian Standard (AS 4736) compostable bags is available on council's website, or refer to question 8 "Where can I purchase compostable bags from" on the next page.

5. Option 2 - When the roll of compostable bags has run out, will council provide additional bags?

No. The caddy will come with one roll of 150 compostable bags. Once used, you will need to purchase Australian Standard (AS 4736) compostable bags. A list of where to purchase additional bags is available on council's website or refer to question 8 "Where can I purchase compostable bags from" on the next page.

6. How often should I empty my food scrap caddy?

The aerated food scrap caddy with compostable bag should be emptied at least every 3-4 days, or as considered necessary.

The closed food scrap caddy (no compostable bag) should be emptied every 2-3 days. Where you choose to purchase and use compostable bags in this caddy, it should be emptied every 1-2 days or as necessary.

In warmer months, all caddies it should be emptied more frequently or as necessary.

7. Can I use other types of bags in the food scrap caddy – ie plastic bags, degradable bags or biodegradable bags?

No. Plastic, degradable and biodegradable bags pollute the composting process and could make the final compost unsuitable for use on parks, gardens and farms. You should only use compostable bags (Australian Standard AS 4736). These bags are made with a natural corn starch base and vegetable oils which break down once in a composting environment.

Regular plastic bags, degradable bags and biodegradable bags do not completely break down in the environment.

8. Where can I purchase Australian Standard compostable bags from?

Australian Standard compostable bags can be purchased from a number of local stores as well other sources including:

Echuca: Woolworths, Coles, Bunnings, Echuca Food Store & Organics

Kyabram: Kyabram Ritchie's SUPA IGA

Online:

- Compost-a-Pak - <https://compostapak.com.au/>
- Cardia Bioproducts - <https://cardiabioproducts.com/>
- Source Separation Systems - <https://www.sourceseparationsystems.com.au>
- Ecovend - <https://www.ecovend.com.au/>

Rochester: From 1 July Mitre 10, Major's IGA

Gunbower: From 1 July Gunbower Roadhouse.

Other locations where acceptable compostable bags can be purchased around the shire will be confirmed in May/June.

9. How strong are compostable bags?

Compostable bags can be as strong as plastic bags, however, they do break down quicker as they are made of natural materials. How quickly the bags break down depend on how long the bag has been in the caddy and what type of food has been put into it (ie - hot food causes compostable bags to break down faster).

Some tips to prevent compostable bags from breaking before getting to the green bin:

- Store in a cool, dark and dry place
- Allow hot food to cool before placing into the bag
- Place some paper towel in the bottom of the bag to soak up any liquids (if needed)
- Allow wet food to drain prior to placing in the bag

10. When will I receive my free food scrap caddy?

If ordered before 31 May 2019 (online or phone) the food scrap caddy will be delivered in June.

11. What if I am not home when the food scrap caddy is delivered?

You do not need to be home to receive your caddy. The caddy will be left in a safe place, either at your front door or beside your mailbox.

Food & Garden Waste Service

Handy Tips –green bin or caddy

1. **SMELL – green bin or caddy**

- Empty aerated caddy with compostable bags every 3-4 days, closed caddy every 2-3 days and closed caddy with compostable bags every 1-2 days
- Rinse your caddy with water
- Sprinkle bicarb soda into your green bin
- Wrap food scraps in newspaper

2. **MESSY – green bin or caddy**

- Line your caddy with a sheet of newspaper to help absorb liquids, this will help keep your caddy clean
- If you don't have newspaper – a sheet or two of butcher's paper, deli paper or paper towel will also do the job
- Rinse caddy with water

3. **PESTS – caddy**

- Do not overfill your caddy
- Keep your caddy lid closed – pests and insects are only attracted when food waste is accessible
- Empty and rinse your caddy as needed – the caddy is just like other indoor bins that need to be cleaned from time to time

4. **PESTS – green bin**

- Keep your green bin lid closed
- If lid is broken, please contact customer service to log a request for a new green bin lid

5. **FOOD STUCK – bottom on green bin**

- Put garden waste in the bottom of the bin first and then food waste on top
- Put a couple sheets of newspaper on the bottom of the green bin and then food waste on top
- Wrap messier food waste in newspaper before placing into the green bin
- Clean your green bin with some water and an outdoor broom. For more information on how to clean a wheelie bin at home: <https://www.bhg.com.au/how-to-clean-your-wheelie-bin>
- Search online for domestic wheelie bin cleaners that operate locally

6. **UGLY - caddy**

You can choose not to have a food scrap caddy (option 3) and elect to purchase one of your own choice locally or online. Whatever container is used, a lid is needed to prevent pests and smell.

7. TOO MUCH SPACE – caddy

The caddy does not need to be kept on the kitchen bench, it can be stored in a cupboard (ie – under the sink or in a drawer) when not in use.

When cutting up food, simply place the caddy on the bench and then when finished, return to the cupboard or drawer.

8. REDUCE SMELLS - Handy tips

- Use paper towel to line the bottom of your caddy, or the compostable bag, to soak up any moisture. This will result in emptying less frequently.
- Wrap meat scraps and bones (with newspaper or paper towel) before placing into your caddy.
- Wrap fish and seafood scraps (in newspaper or paper towel) and place in your freezer until your next collection is due and then place directly into your green bin.
- If using compostable bags, make sure to tie a knot in the bag when full and before placing in your green bin.
- Line your green bin with a couple sheets of newspaper.
- Keep your green bin away from your house in a shady spot if possible.
- Sprinkle vinegar, baking soda, charcoal or eucalyptus oil in your green bin to combat odours.
- A mix of garden and food waste helps keep bin odours under control – add garden waste to your green bin along with food.
- If you are going away, ask your neighbour to put your bins out and bring them back in for you (and they can return the favour for you when they are away!).

9. More information?

More information about the food and garden waste bin, or food scrap caddy, is available from council's website, www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Online information will also include further information on the caddy options to assist you in choosing the best option for your household.

Community presentations, street bin displays and tours to Biomix will be held in May and June.

Regular updates regarding the changes to the service, delivery of free food scrap caddy, will be provided to local media and council's Facebook page – facebook.com/CampaspeShireCouncil