

Food and Garden Waste (Give a Scrap) Program – Summary

What is the Food and Garden Waste (Give a Scrap) Program?

The Food and Garden Waste (Give a Scrap) Program is a component of the Campaspe Shire Council's commitment outlined in *Building the Case for Waste - Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2018-23*.

Campaspe Shire Council developed a business case for the introduction of a combined food and garden waste service in 2018. The service began on 1 July 2019 to reduce the amount of food and garden material being sent to landfill.

Consulting company Envirocom were engaged to provide guidance on program development.

Program documents include: an implementation plan, a communication and education plan, a community engagement plan, a risk management plan and an evaluation plan.



Why is it important to keep food and garden waste out of landfill?

More than half of what Campaspe sends to landfill from kerbside general waste bins is food and garden waste.

There is an opportunity to divert this valuable food and garden material from landfill to be turned into a nutritious compost product and reused on local gardens, parks and farms.

Food and garden waste in landfill also creates methane, which is 25 times more damaging to our environment than carbon dioxide.

Composting food and garden material, rather than sending it to landfill, is cheaper, better for the environment and healthier for our entire community.

Average Campaspe Waste Bin (2015)



What is the aim of the Give a Scrap Program?

The aim of the program is to reduce the amount of organic material currently ending up in landfill and educate the community on the benefits of recycling their food and garden organics.

How will the Give a Scrap Program achieve its aim?

By implementing the following:

- **Opt-in service** - an expansion from the original garden organics fortnightly service
- **Food scrap caddy options** - provided to the community and designed to be flexible to remove common barriers associated with disposing of food scraps
- **Compostable bags** – encouraging businesses to stock accepted 8 litre compostable bags for residents to purchase locally when they run out
- **Give a Scrap branding/tagline** - developed and utilised throughout the planning and implementation phases
- **Community consultation** – including: surveys, focus groups, letters, social media, community presentations, tours to the commercial composting facility
- **Socially inclusive partnerships** - prioritised throughout the program to assist with implementation (ie – caddy delivery)



Through the following future Give a Scrap Program activities:

- **Continue** to encourage the community to downsize their kerbside waste bins
- **Continue** to encourage the community to recycle their food scraps by using a backyard compost, worm farm or feeding scraps to pets/chooks
- **Continue** to engage, communicate and educate the community
- **Develop** trials with local businesses, schools and kinders
- **Monitor** contamination levels, volumes of material and uptake of service
- **Measure** success and evaluate for areas of improvement

How will the Give a Scrap Program measure success?

Through the collection of the following data:

- Number of kerbside green bin services
- Tonnes/percent of food and garden waste diverted from landfill
- Contamination levels kept below industry standards
- Decreased greenhouse gas emissions generated from food and garden waste in landfill
- Increased community awareness regarding the importance of landfill diversion by separating waste streams, specifically food and garden waste
- Increased community awareness regarding the benefits of composting
- Increased community awareness regarding food waste issues

More information

For more information on the Food and Garden Waste (Give a Scrap) Program please visit council's website: <https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/live/at-home/food-and-garden-waste/> or contact Campaspe Shire Council's Environmental Projects Officer – Organics on 03 5481 2200. #giveascrap

