

FOGO Program 2018-2020 Evaluation Report

Summary

The Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) Program was developed to reduce the amount of organic waste ending up in landfill within the Shire of Campaspe and to educate the community on the benefits of composting food and garden organic waste. The FOGO 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*.

The FOGO Program described measurable actions that were undertaken by the Campaspe Shire Council from October 2018 to June 2020. The key aim of the program was to reduce the amount of organic material ending up in landfill and to educate the community on the benefits of recovering their food and garden organic waste.



Strategic objectives of the FOGO Program

1. Increase number of kerbside green bin services (#)
2. Increase diversion of organics from landfill (tonnes and %)
3. Limit contamination levels in organic materials to be consistent with industry standards (%)
4. Abatement of CO_{2e} annually (tonnes)
5. Increase community awareness of the importance of landfill diversion by separating waste streams, specifically organics
6. Increase community awareness of the benefits of composting
7. Increase community awareness of food waste issues

FOGO Program Implementation Action Plan

The FOGO Program was guided by a detailed 18-month Implementation Action Plan. The Implementation Action Plan included specific actions and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each of the 7 program strategic objectives:

- 84.5 actions were completed
- 4.5 actions were not completed and carried over to 2020-21 (due to COVID-19)
- 8 actions were not completed and carried over to 2020-21 (evaluation report actions and actions to explore a universal service)
- 1 action was not required and was not carried over to 2020-21
- 2 actions are ongoing

Campaspe's annual WickED Survey included questions that allowed the FOGO Program to be evaluated. Feedback on the FOGO Program was also obtained from key stakeholders and the community.

In general, the evaluation process has confirmed that an increased amount of food and garden organic waste was composted and the community have an increased understanding of the benefits of diverting organic waste from landfill in the Shire of Campaspe and understand the importance of this locally as well as globally

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Table 1: FOGO Program 2018-2020 – Targets and Outcomes Achieved

#	Objective	Target Increase	Actual	Outcome
1	Increase number of kerbside green bin services (#)	2,000 new services	1,900 new services (2,000 new services as at 30 August 2020)	95% of target achieved (100% of target achieved as at 30 August 2020)
2	Increase diversion of organics from landfill (tonnes and %)	1,241 tonnes	3,057 tonnes	Exceeded target: 1,577 tonne increase
3	Limit contamination levels in organic materials to be consistent with industry standards (%)	Under 3%	Average 0.25%	Greatly Exceeded target: By 2.75% less contamination
4	Abatement of CO _{2e} annually (tonnes)	2,101 tCO _{2e}	4,575 tCO _{2e}	Exceeded target: 2,474 tCO _{2e} increase
5	Increase community awareness of the importance of landfill diversion by separating waste streams, specifically organics	Increase in awareness	92% of the community understand that food and garden waste decomposing in landfill creates harmful greenhouse gases like methane	Achieved target – 10% increase in awareness/knowledge from March 2019
6	Increase community awareness of the benefits of composting	Increase in awareness	98% of the community understand that food and garden waste can be composted with the benefit of adding nutrients back into our soils	Achieved target: 31% increase from December 2018
7	Increase community awareness of food waste issues	Increase in awareness	78% of the community store food correctly (ie – tightly closed containers and/or ready to eat portion sizes) 78% of the community eat their leftovers to avoid food waste	Achieved target: 16% increase from March 2019 Achieved target: 13% increase from March 2019

Recommendations

The following recommendations can be made for the 2020-21 FOGO Program development and implementation actions and activities:

Future FOGO Program Development and Activities

- Set measurable strategic objectives for the FOGO Program
- Develop an annual Action Plan for the FOGO Program as well as updating the following supporting documents where required: Communication and Education Plan, Community Engagement Plan, Risk Management Plan, Evaluation Plan
- Increase numbers of food and garden waste services
- Increase diversion of food and garden waste from landfill
- Increase food and garden waste services
 - Continue promotion of benefits of food and garden waste service to residents in townships area to maximise uptake of the service

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- Promote alternative options to disposing of food waste in the general waste bin (ie - composting and feeding food scraps to chooks or pets) to residents with food and garden waste bins as well as those residents who cannot access the service (such as those in rural areas)
- Identify and engage champions to promote the food and garden waste service
- Increase promotion of tiered fee structure in township areas and associated reduced waste charge with a food and garden waste service
- Continue to form partnerships where applicable with social enterprises (ie – Vivid) where it is mutually beneficial to both organisations
- Obtain data on kerbside services
 - Organise audits of kerbside waste, recycling and food and garden waste services to establish a baseline for food waste in general waste bins and food waste in food and garden waste bins.
- Schools and early years services
 - Develop and promote case studies of food and garden waste trials at early years services and schools
 - Expand food and garden waste bin to schools and early years services across Campaspe
 - Continue to conduct tours to re-processor Biomix to educate students on contamination issues and the benefits to soils from the end product
- Businesses
 - Develop and implement a commercial FOGO trial for businesses in Campaspe Shire and Moama to determine the feasibility of the service in our shire.
- Events
 - Support events to divert food waste from landfill (in conjunction with the Environmental Projects Officer – Education and WickED Waste Wise Certification Program)
- Community awareness and positive behaviour change
 - Implement food waste campaigns (ie – Sustainability Victoria's Love Food Hate Waste Campaign) from kerbside audit results such as a food waste reduction campaign (in conjunction with the Environmental Projects Officer – Education and the WickED Education Program)
 - Increase promotion of end product from food and garden waste kerbside service
 - Continue to conduct tours to re-processor Biomix to educate the community on contamination issues and the benefits to soils from the end product
 - Continue to respond and educate residents with food and garden waste services through the Bin Tagging Education Program in conjunction with the Environmental Projects Officer – Education
 - Maintain low contamination levels in the food and garden waste service and corresponding low gate rate fee by working with re-processor Biomix and continuing to promote positive behaviour messages to the community
 - Social media has been a very valuable method of communication/education and has directly led to some strategic objectives being met. The FOGO Program will continue to utilise this method of communication to enable future targets to be met.
- Investigate the feasibility of the following:
 - Exemption process for residents already with an approved method for disposing of food waste and garden waste on-site
 - Expansion of the eligible FOGO service area to enable increased access to the food and garden waste service for rural residents
 - Investigate support for composting for residents outside the FOGO eligible area (ie. residents who cannot access the food and garden waste service but would like support to divert their food and garden waste from landfill)
 - Public place food and garden waste bins in high density public areas
 - Weekly food and garden waste service to all residents in the FOGO eligible area
 - Universal food and garden waste service to all residents in the FOGO eligible area

The FOGO Program contributes to Council's waste and resource recovery service's guiding principle to be a leader in waste management and resource recovery through current best practice approaches and infrastructure. It has been crucial to the successful uptake of the food and garden waste service and the increased understanding of the benefits of this service to the community. Ongoing communication and education activities are required to ensure contamination levels remain low and uptake of the service is maximised.