

FOGO FAQs

(Lots of letters, but it all comes back to u.)

Glenorchy City Council will be introducing a fortnightly FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) kerbside collection service in February 2020.

What does this mean for me?

The new FOGO collection service will provide a convenient and environmentally friendly way to dispose of your organic waste, significantly reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and providing additional waste collection capacity to our residents.

What CAN I put in my FOGO bin?

Residents will be given a 240-litre wheelie bin for any organic waste, including:

- Food scraps – vegetables, seafood, dairy, meat and bones (cooked or raw), teabags, coffee grounds and egg shells;
- Lawn waste – grass clippings, leaves, bark, twigs and weeds;
- Shredded paper, paper towels, paper napkins and tissues;
- Food-contaminated cardboard (e.g. pizza boxes with food on them);
- Personal cuttings – hair and nails; and
- Animal waste – such as organic kitty litter and soiled paper from bird cages.

What CAN'T I put in my FOGO bin?

If it can't decompose, don't put it in. In general, only things that were once alive or were grown should go in your FOGO bin. This means no:

- Plastics (not even degradable plastic bags)
- Nappies
- Fabric (e.g. clothing)
- Hard waste or broken household items
- Plastic take-away containers
- Hazardous or contaminated waste
- Thick branches; and
- Nothing that is currently allowed to go in your recycling bin.



continued...

waste management

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GLENORCHY CITY
Where ideas happen

What are the benefits to me, as a resident?

A FOGO collection will greatly reduce the amount of waste that goes into your general waste bin. This will be convenient if you have difficulty fitting your waste into your existing bin.

If you compost for environmental reasons, a FOGO collection will help you to responsibly dispose of material you wouldn't normally compost at home, like dog poo or meat scraps, which attract vermin.

If you bring green waste to the landfill or pay for a private green waste collection service, you'll no longer need to make those trips, saving you money and time. If you generate a lot of garden waste, you can spread it across multiple collections.

What are the environmental benefits of FOGO bins?

Currently in Glenorchy, more than 50 per cent of our general waste collection (which goes to landfill) is made up of FOGO waste. This equates to more than 4,000 tonnes of waste a year. Additionally, around 3,000 tonnes of garden waste is brought to landfill by residents each year.

The FOGO collection service would divert all this waste from landfill, saving space and reducing greenhouse emissions.

Organic waste decomposes anaerobically (without oxygen) in landfill, producing lots of methane. Methane is about 25 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Currently, some of this methane is extracted from the landfill and burnt to produce power. If FOGO is collected and composted, it breaks down aerobically (with oxygen) and so very little methane will be produced at all.

Collecting FOGO and turning it into a compost product conserves organic compounds and nutrients by returning them to the soil, instead of burning them or burying them where nothing is being grown.

Some people who compost at home are unable to sufficiently aerate their compost so it ends up decomposing anaerobically (without oxygen), which produces methane and can smell and attract rodents. It doesn't produce a very good compost product either.

What will I get as part of the FOGO service?

You will receive a 240-litre wheelie bin with a lime green lid, the same size as your recycling bin. If you have limited space, access or mobility issues you may request a smaller bin. If you currently share recycling and waste bins (for example, where there are multiple units), you will receive a shared bin.

Each household will also be provided with a 7-litre kitchen caddy and a 12 months' supply of compostable liner bags. The caddy is a small bucket with a lid and a handle that you can keep on your kitchen bench to transfer food waste to your wheelie bin.

The service will operate fortnightly in alternate weeks to your general waste collection. Details around arrangements for those who have shared bins will be provided between now and the rollout.

What kind of bin bags can I use?

If you want to put bags in the FOGO caddy or bin, they must be compostable. Biodegradable bags should not be used, as these just break down into smaller fragments of plastic. They do not de-compose.

Will the bins smell?

Combining food and garden waste reduces the impacts of odour from food waste. We will provide important tips on using the bin to help resolve odour issues.

What happens to the waste?

The organics will be mulched together and broken down into compost in a system that makes sure there is enough oxygen for aerobic decomposition. This results in a compost product that is suitable for agricultural and domestic garden use.

Why is council rolling out FOGO?

The community has asked for improved waste services and more regular kerbside services.

Nearly half the residents in Glenorchy use some form of additional service to manage their organic waste, including trash packs, private collections, larger bins, private gardeners or taking green waste to the landfill. The introduction of a FOGO service will provide an affordable service for all residents.

Organics make up nearly half of the waste in the general waste bin. Separating and composting the material will remove it from landfill and reduce the generation of greenhouse gases.

When will the service be rolled out?

The FOGO collection service will commence in February 2020. The wheelie bins will start to be delivered over summer, along with further information prior to the service starting.

What will it cost? Will my rates go up?

The cost of providing the service is estimated at \$2 per week per rateable property. Council has not yet determined exactly how much it will charge. Council will make this decision as part of setting the fees and charges in June 2019.

Council is continuing to work with other southern councils to look at how we can work together to provide scale and encourage processing services closer to Hobart. This will assist in further reducing the cost and providing an affordable service.

Has the community been consulted?

Council conducted an extensive survey to gauge the level of community interest in a FOGO collection service and their willingness to pay for such a service.

The survey indicated significant support from the community, with more than 1,400 survey responses received. Of these responses, 90 per cent identified a FOGO service as either 'important' or 'very important'.

Who will receive the service? Can I opt-in or opt-out?

The service will be provided to all residents to ensure it is effective enough to remove waste from landfill, while at the same time ensuring there are enough people to keep it affordable.

Those in the rural resource and rural living zones of Collinsvale and Glenlusk with larger blocks will be able to opt-in to the service.

The service will not be automatically provided to businesses, but those entitled to a bin collection service will be able to opt-in.

An opt-out option will be available if certain criteria are met. These criteria will be strict and will be developed as part of the implementation plan.

Council has considered difficulties people might experience and will work with people with special needs, such as those living in unit complexes and group care homes, to make sure bin size and collection arrangements are suitable.

We already have a compost system at home. Would I still need a FOGO bin?

We are looking at providing a FOGO collection to all residents, including those who compost. If residents meet certain criteria, they may be able to opt-out of the service. Our bin collection audits have shown us that there are very few residents that currently send no food or garden organics waste to landfill.

A FOGO collection service accepts a greater variety of waste products than a standard home-compost system. For example, you can put meat, seafood and bones into your FOGO bin.

Are other councils doing it?

Yes. Launceston, Meander Valley and West Tamar Councils currently provide a FOGO service. Hobart currently provides a green waste collection service and is planning to upgrade to a FOGO service. Many interstate and overseas councils are providing FOGO services.

If you have any questions or comments, we encourage you to contact our customer service team on 03 6216 6800 or email gccmail@gcc.tas.gov.au.

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