

CITY OF ALBANY'S FOGO TRANSITION



BACKGROUND

Keeping food and organic waste out of landfill is considered best practice, and is a key part of the WA Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030. When organic waste breaks down in landfill, it releases methane and moisture that creates a harmful leachate when combined with rain and condensation.

In 2004, the City of Albany was one of the first West Australian Local Governments to introduce a three-bin GO (Garden Organics) kerbside service. Following the successful implementation of this system, the City identified the need to move towards a 3-bin FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) kerbside bin system, which would provide a system to collect food waste along with garden organics from households.

The City of Albany transitioned to the FOGO system in July 2021, which was a culmination of more than three years of planning and engagement.

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES

The City adopted a new Exceptional Circumstances procedure for people living at home with medical conditions that result in unavoidable general waste, to provide them with a larger General Waste bin.

A Reusable Nappy Incentive was also introduced, to encourage families with young children to make the switch from disposable to reusable nappies.

Residents are provided with additional compostable kitchen caddy liners (2 rolls of 75 per year) to encourage the continued correct use of the system.

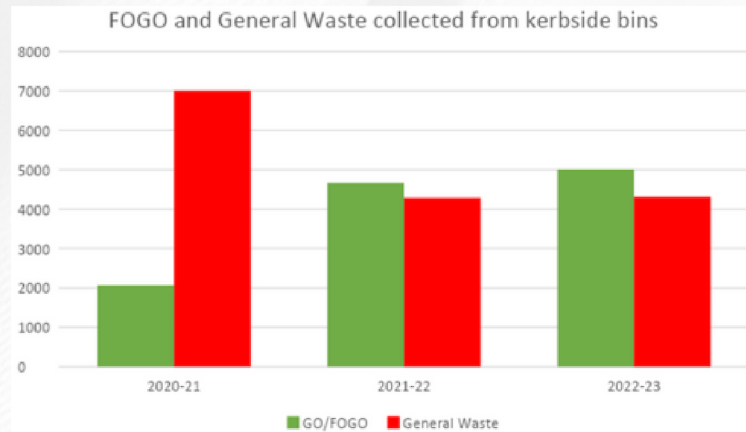
PREPARATION

To prepare for the FOGO transition, a number of important steps were taken to ensure that the shift to the new system was as smooth as possible. This included:

- Setting up new systems and contracts: the City engaged with local suppliers to support the establishment of an appropriate processing facility which met regulatory requirements, and to put in place the required waste collected and processing contracts.
- FOGO bin incentive: the City introduced an incentive to encourage residents who did not already have a 240L GO bin, to purchase one at a reduced price.
- Lids and caddies: to ensure all households had lids that met the Australian Standards, a local contractor was engaged to visit all Albany urban households and change lids where necessary. An 8-litre kitchen caddy was also delivered to each household, which contained a City of Albany Waste Services Guide and a supply of compostable caddy liners.
- Communication and engagement: to assist residents be in the best position to successfully use the new system, an extensive communication and engagement campaign was rolled out which included:
 - Pop-up displays at shopping centres and events, presentations to community groups, home visits to residents;
 - Engagement with relevant agencies including the Department of Communities, WA Primary Health Alliance and disability service providers; and
 - Communication through printed materials, newspaper advertising, radio, TV, cinema and social media.

RESULTS

The first two years of the FOGO system have resulted in a significant change in the composition of waste collected from kerbside bins. In 2021-22 there was a 39% reduction in General Waste collected, and this was maintained in 2022-23. This was accompanied by a 126% increase in the collection of organics when compared to Garden Organics only.



NEXT STEPS

To ensure the ongoing success of the FOGO system, the City continues to work with contractors and residents to reinforce the importance of correct waste sorting behaviours. For example, an upcoming 'Where does my FOGO go' video which will highlight the process to create the final product and the role that all residents have in ensuring its quality. City staff are working with various agencies and stakeholders to support residents who may find the system challenging.

