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## What is FOGO?

FOGO is food and garden organic material generated within your house and garden.

Households that are part of the FOGO trial will receive:

- ✓ A kitchen caddy
- ✓ Compostable bags for the kitchen caddy
- ✓ A new lime green lid 240-litre wheellie bin for food organics and garden organics (FOGO).

The contents of the FOGO and GO bins will be sent to local suppliers where it will be recycled into top quality compost or a conditioner used to improve soil quality. Council will use the recycled product locally to beautify the city's parks, gardens and open spaces. The final product will not be available for sale to the public at this stage.

The roll-out of FOGO bins is a requirement of the Australian Government's National Waste Policy. The Queensland Government's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy also supports the diversion of organic material from landfill.

This initiative supports the Australian Government's aim to halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill for disposal by 2030.

### How many households are participating in the FOGO trial?

Approximately 1,000 households will participate in the FOGO trial.

The Queensland Government contributed funding to enable Council to conduct the trial to collect FOGO from two areas in Townsville – Burdell and Idalia.

The Queensland Government also funded a Garden Organics (GO) trial with approximately 500 households participating in the areas of Vincent and Heatley.

### When does the FOGO trial start and how long does it go for?

The FOGO trial will commence in October 2021 and runs for 12 months.

### I am a trial participant. What does this mean for me?

During September 2021, every trial household will receive a 240-litre FOGO lime green lid kerbside bin, kitchen caddy and compostable liners.

Throughout the trial, you should always have two (2) bins on the kerb for collection. The FOGO lime green lid bin will be collected weekly, while your general waste red lid bin and recycling yellow lid bin will alternate each week.

There will be no additional rates charged to any participating household for the FOGO bin or kitchen caddy.

Your new bin collection service will increase your waste collection capacity from 720litres to 960litres meaning you get an extra 240litres!

If you are in a participating trial area visit the [Have Your Say website](#) for more details.

If you are not a trial participant, your existing bin collection service will remain the same.

## The FOGO bin

### Why FOGO?

In Townsville, 46% of material found in the general waste red lid bin is food and garden matter.

When food waste goes to landfill it significantly increases methane production. Methane is a type of greenhouse gas that contributes to global climate change.

When you use the FOGO bin to dispose of your food and garden material you are helping divert waste from landfill.

### What CAN go in the FOGO lime green lid bin?

All food can go in the FOGO bin.

Items accepted are:

- ✓ cooked food and leftovers
- ✓ fruit and vegetable peelings and scraps
- ✓ grains, bread, rice, cereals and pasta
- ✓ eggshells, cheese, yoghurt and other dairy products
- ✓ coffee grounds, tea leaves and tea bags
- ✓ meat, bones, poultry and seafood, including prawn shells
- ✓ soiled cardboard and shredded paper
- ✓ tissues and paper towel
- ✓ feathers and hair (human and animal)
- ✓ lawn clippings, flowers, leaves and weeds
- ✓ small branches and twigs (no larger than 10 centimetres in diameter – about the thickness of your arm)



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## What CANNOT go in the FOGO lime green lid bin?

- ✗ general waste
- ✗✗ recyclable items that go in your yellow lid bin
- ✗✗ food packaging including plastic film (i.e., cling wrap)
- ✗✗ biodegradable/degradable plastics
- ✗✗ soft plastics and plastic bags
- ✗✗ clothing/fabric
- ✗✗ nappies
- ✗✗ plastic pot plants
- ✗✗ garden hoses and tools
- ✗✗ gravel, dirt, rocks, and soil
- ✗✗ treated timber and lattice
- ✗✗ concrete, glass, metals and building materials
- ✗✗ liquids, oils, chemicals, and hot ashes
- ✗✗ e-waste
- ✗✗ large branches, logs, and stumps (larger than 10 centimetres in diameter – about the thickness of your arm)

## Are weeds accepted in the FOGO lime green lid bin?

All common garden weeds can go in the FOGO bin. All other harmful or 'declared priority' weeds should be disposed of in the general waste red lid bin. For further information on weed types, visit Council's website and search 'Pests & Weeds'.

## What do I do with nappies?

Nappies must be placed in your general waste red lid bin. To help manage smell, wrap them in newspaper or in a small bag that can be closed tightly, or double-wrap them before putting them into the general waste red lid bin.

Studies have shown that the odour of nappies at the end of a fortnight is no worse than the odour of regular garbage bins by the end of the week before collection. Odour does not significantly increase with time or with the amount of nappies in the bin.

Wrapping nappies in newspaper or at least one bag before placing them into the general waste red lid bin and keeping the bin out of the sun are key odour management tips.

## Should I bag waste before placing it in the FOGO lime green lid bin?

We recommend that you bag your food waste using the roll of compostable liners provided - it is important you do not line your kitchen caddy with a regular plastic bag. Alternatively, you can line your kitchen caddy with newspaper.

## Should I put the FOGO lime green lid bin out for collection even if it only has a few bags of waste in it?

Yes, food waste decomposes quickly so it needs to be collected weekly.

Every week it's estimated that most Townsville households' generate 2 to 3 bags of food waste. It may not seem like much from a single household, but when you consider the total amount of waste from 1,000 households participating in the FOGO trial, that is a lot of food waste diverted from landfill every week.

## What happens if I put waste that I shouldn't in the FOGO lime green lid bin?

Council will work with you to identify and resolve the problem/s and take any necessary additional steps as needed.

## What can I do to reduce odour in the FOGO lime green lid bin?

The FOGO lime green lid bin will be collected weekly. Place your FOGO bin in the shade when it's not on the kerb for collection where possible. A weekly collection will also help to reduce the chance of maggots and flies.

Placing a few cotton buds dipped in eucalyptus oil at the bottom of the bin may also assist in odour reduction.

## I already compost or have a worm farm at home. Do I have to use the FOGO lime green lid bin for my food waste?

As a participating trial household, we encourage you to use the FOGO bin provided to your household. You can place food waste like meat, bones, dairy, seafood, onions and citrus in your FOGO bin – these items don't usually go in your home compost bin or worm farm.

## Wood vs. timber – can these go in the FOGO lime green lid bin?

Wood can be placed into the FOGO bin because this is considered 'organic' and includes sticks, branches and prunings, provided they are no larger than 10 centimetres in diameter (about the thickness of your arm) and the bin lid is able to close.

Timber is processed wood. It contains chemicals and adhesives that contaminate compost and should not be placed in the FOGO bin.



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## What if the FOGO lime green lid bin is missed or damaged?

During October (the first month of the trial), if you accidentally place the FOGO bin out for collection on the wrong week your household will be entitled to one (1) complimentary collection, however, you must notify our Customer Service Centre and obtain a reference number first.

Note, any subsequent requests for a missed collection due to the FOGO bin being placed on the kerb on the incorrect week will incur a standard return service fee payable by the trial household.

If the FOGO bin is damaged, please call our Customer Service Centre on 13 48 10.

## What happens if I've put items that don't belong in the FOGO bin?

If the FOGO bin is contaminated with waste that doesn't belong, it can't be collected with the same truck that collects every other trial households' FOGO bin. This is because incorrect waste items placed in the FOGO bin can contaminate the entire truck load of organic material.

If safe to do so, remove any contaminants from the FOGO bin before you place it on the kerb for collection again. In the first few weeks of using the FOGO bin, we recommend you familiarise yourself with what you can and can't put in the bin.

If it is not possible to remove the contaminants, you will be entitled to one (1) complimentary FOGO collection, however, you must notify our Customer Service Centre and obtain a reference number first.

Please note, the one (1) complimentary collection is valid for the month of October only.

## What happens to the FOGO lime green lid bin if I move house?

The FOGO bin and kitchen caddy are the property of Townsville City Council and must remain at the property if you move house.

## Can I have a second FOGO lime green lid bin?

No, however, we encourage you to contact a local green waste service provider who will be able to assist you. You can also take advantage of the home-composting tips and resources on Council's website.

## Should cardboard go in my recycling or FOGO bin?

Clean paper and cardboard is best placed in your yellow lid recycle bin for reuse and recycling again.

You can place non-recyclable paper and cardboard, such as soiled or shredded cardboard, in your FOGO bin.

## The kitchen caddy

### Where can I get a kitchen caddy?

All participating trial households will receive a kitchen caddy. If you wish, you can use any other container to sort food scraps in your kitchen, like an ice cream container or a small bucket with a lid.

If you need another kitchen caddy after your complimentary caddy, you can use another container as per above or contact our Customer Service Centre.

### Where can I get more compostable liners for the kitchen caddy?

All trial households will receive a roll of 150 green coloured certified compostable AS 4736 liners with the kitchen caddy and FOGO bin.

Additional liners can be collected free of charge from:

- Any Townsville City Libraries branch
- Council's Customer Service Centre located at 103 Walker Street, Townsville City

If you decide to purchase your own compostable bags, they must comply with Australian Standard AS4736. If you use a non-certified bag it will contaminate your FOGO bin.

### Why can't I use degradable, biodegradable or plastic bags as liners for the kitchen caddy?

**Do not** use plastic bags, biodegradable and other sorts of degradable bags in the kitchen caddy (or put them in the FOGO bin).

Remember, degradable and biodegradable bags are still plastic. 'Degradable' means that they will break up into smaller pieces of plastic. Plastic does not enter the nutrient cycle, no matter how small.

Instead, you can re-use compostable items found in your home - things like newspapers, brown paper bags, paper towel, cereal boxes or other pantry sized cardboard boxes.



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## How can I avoid fruit flies in the kitchen caddy?

Fruit flies can be a problem in our tropical climate, especially during the summer months when it gets hotter.

To reduce the chance of fruit flies, we recommend you change out the caddy liner every 2-3 days. You could also consider storing fruits in the fridge.

Fruit flies like overripe bananas, bruised fruits, potatoes, onions and other unrefrigerated produce. Fruit flies can breed in anything moist or fermenting like drains, the kitchen caddy, and even cleaning rags.

To deter fruit flies consider placing a 'trap' on your benchtop. To start:

1. Place 1-2 tablespoons of apple cider vinegar (or red wine or balsamic – but not white vinegar) in a bowl, cup, or glass jar.
2. Cover the top tightly with film (plastic) wrap and a rubber band to hold it in place.
3. Puncture the film with some small holes and leave it on the benchtop near the affected area for a couple of days, the flies will be attracted to the vinegar.

As an ongoing deterrent, you could try using natural essential oils to eradicate the fruit flies - place a few drops of tea tree oil or eucalyptus oil in water in a spray bottle and use around affected areas.

## How can I provide feedback on the FOGO trial?

Participating households will be asked to provide feedback throughout the trial. This feedback is invaluable and will help us make the FOGO trial a success.

To provide feedback, please see the link below or scan the QR code on the bottom of the page.

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### For more information



13 48 10



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[townsville.qld.gov.au](http://townsville.qld.gov.au)