

FOOD & GARDEN ORGANICS

FACT SHEET



FAST FACTS

40%

In Maribyrnong, food waste makes up around 40% of the contents of garbage bin contents – on par with the state wide average.



If not composted at home, food waste currently ends up in landfill, which in the long term can be detrimental to the environment.



Council is currently unable to deliver a full scale food waste service due to existing organics treatment plants being close to capacity.

New food treatments plants are expected to be operational in five years time.

The big picture

Food waste is the largest segment of resources currently placed in our landfill bins, making up around 40% of the contents of garbage bins in the City of Maribyrnong. This is similar to the state wide average.

To decrease the amount of waste Council sends to landfill we must consider how we divert more food and garden waste from landfill. When food waste is buried in landfill without oxygen, it produces potent methane gas which is a significant greenhouse gas.

Current organic or green waste treatment plants servicing metropolitan Melbourne are close to capacity, we are working with neighbouring Councils and the State Government to develop new plants, while also looking into alternative measures.

It is likely it will take at least five years before new treatment plants are operational. This is due to the size of the plants required, complexity of designing, purchasing and building the sites, equipment needed and obtaining environmental approvals.

While small amounts of food waste could potentially be added to the green waste, a full scale food waste service will not be able to be provided until new treatment plants are built.

In the meantime, Council provides a green waste organics service, which diverted 2153 tonne from landfill last financial year, and discounted composting equipment through the Compost Community program. Under this program households can receive a \$30 rebate towards composting equipment which is provided at cost price, less the rebate to members.

We have also partnered with other Councils to provide the Food Know How program, toolkits and online resources and have run a number of series of Love Food Hate Waste workshops as part of our Sustainable Living program to assist residents in reducing the food waste.

For further information and to take part in our online survey and ideas generator visit www.yourcityyourvoice.com.au open until 16 December, 2018.