

July 2018

# recycle right newsletter

A monthly publication helping Western Australians to reduce their household waste, recycle right and live more sustainably.

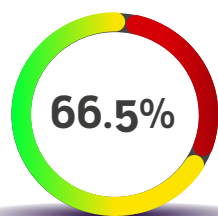


## 3-BIN FOGO TRIAL A WINNER!

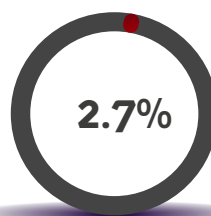
The trial of a Perth metro first, 3-bin Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) system has yielded higher than anticipated diversion from landfill and strong resident satisfaction.

Commencing in October 2017, in an unprecedented trial the new bin system was rolled out to approximately 7,000 households across five areas in the City of Melville.

In the first 6 months, the system has delivered strong results above State Government 2020 targets.



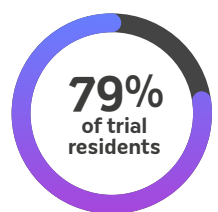
**66.5%**  
of all household waste  
diverted from landfill



**2.7%**  
total contamination  
in the FOGO bin

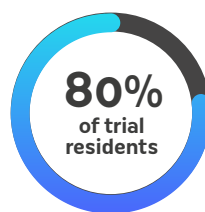
In April 2018, the SMRC undertook a comprehensive survey of all FOGO trial residents, alongside 5,000 randomly selected households across all five member councils, to let them have their say on the future of waste and recycling.

In total, 30% or 1,952 residents participating in the FOGO trial responded, alongside 826 residents from the remainder of the SMRC region, with the results highlighting strong community support for the implementation of a 3-bin FOGO system.



**79%**  
of trial  
residents

**want the FOGO  
service to continue**



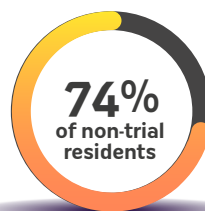
**80%**  
of trial  
residents

**were happy with the amount  
of information they received**



**94%**  
of trial  
residents

**rate weekly FOGO  
bins positively**



**74%**  
of non-trial  
residents

**in the SMRC region  
want a FOGO bin**

By being fully aligned with the State Waste Hierarchy, adoption of the FOGO system is designed to increase diversion from landfill, improve recycling rates and generate a high-quality compost while significantly reducing processing costs.

This project is part funded by the State Government through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account, and administered by the Waste Authority.



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### PROBLEM WASTE



Clothing and fabric scraps are not able to be recycled at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) – these items cause problems with the equipment at both the recycling and composting facility. If in good condition, donate them to a local charity shop or Buy Nothing group [buynothingproject.org/](http://buynothingproject.org/)



## HOW THE PLASTIC BAG BAN WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every plastic bag that is refused, makes an impact!

Here are some quick stats from the National Retailers Association

- More than 670 million lightweight plastic bags were used in Western Australia in 2017 and of these, approximately seven million were littered;
- Lightweight plastic bags are easily blown by the wind, littering streets, parks and waterways;
- When they enter the ocean, they endanger wildlife;
- Plastic bags also break up into small fragments (microplastics) and can be ingested by marine and land animals, entering the human food chain.

Don't be discouraged, if you forget or run out of your reusable bags on one trip to the shops, there is always your next visit. It can take a minimum of 21 days to form a new habit!

## WILLAGEE BOOMERANG BAGS

Are you looking to get rid of any fabric or material? Did you know that it can be turned into reusable shopping bags by members of the community?

Willagee has a Boomerang Bag group who meet at the Willagee Community Centre on Fridays. The group could always do with some extra help and you don't have to be good with a needle and thread either. People are needed to help cut out bags, pin or put together packs.

To find out more visit [boomerangbags.org/](http://boomerangbags.org/)







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### PREPARING FOR THE BAN AT PINEY



On Wednesday the 20th of June, the SMRC in Partnership with the City of Melville, ran an interactive information session at Piney Lakes Environmental Education Centre, explaining just exactly what the plastic bag ban means for households, and providing some alternative reduce and reuse options.

The event was well attended with 45 attendees, with a number of spot door prizes such as Recycle Right reusable shopping and produce bags alongside shopping trolley bags to help with the weekly shop.



## YOUNG ENGINEERS BATTERY DESIGN CHALLENGE PROGRAM

Over a number of years, the SMRC has developed a relationship with Young Engineers, hosting workshops and sessions at the Regional Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) and helping children develop their understanding of how engineering can be used to solve real world problems.

This year, the program looked to tackle the issue of preventing batteries from entering the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the RRRC. The event took place at John XXIII College with year 5 and 6 students building Lego prototypes of battery removal contraptions based around the equipment at the MRF.

The students then presented their prototypes to a panel of 'technology investors', which included our Waste Education and Project Officer Conor Macgill alongside a representative from the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and a Technology Expert from Fairfax Media.

To find out more about the program, visit [young-engineers.com.au](http://young-engineers.com.au)



## UPCOMING TOURS



Now is the perfect time to come and learn about what happens to your waste, find out where the wheelie bins contents are taken after they are put out on the verge.

The next community tours are scheduled for:

Thursday July 5th at 10.00am  
(School holiday tour)

and Saturday September 8th  
at 10.00am.

Bookings are essential and if you're interested, contact Isabelle on **9256 9528** or via email at **tours@smrc.com.au**.

## PLASTIC FREE JULY



## UPCOMING EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

### PLASTIC FREE JULY

July is upon us, so don't get caught without your reusable coffee cup and water bottle, canvas shopping bags or stainless-steel straws! In its seventh year, Plastic Free July is a Perth-based idea that has become a worldwide phenomenon.

For more information visit [plasticfreejuly.org](http://plasticfreejuly.org) or visit **[www.plasticfreejuly.org/pesky-plastics-quiz.html](http://www.plasticfreejuly.org/pesky-plastics-quiz.html)** to take 5 and complete the thought provoking 'Pesky Plastics' quiz.

What will you refuse?

### PLASTIC NOT SO FANTASTIC

This workshop will inspire you to switch your thinking with some quick wins and information on how to minimise single use plastics in your home and your life, saving money and the planet. Presented by declutter and revamp specialist Kerry Pond and Switch your Thinking.

**When:** 11 July, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

**Where:** Ken Jackman Hall, Darius Wells Library and Resource Centre, Kwinana Town Centre.

There are a number of fantastic door prizes available on the night including:

- Keep cup
- Kitchen caddy
- Mini wheelie bins
- Reusable bags

Tea, coffee and light refreshments are also available. For more information, visit **[whatson.kwinana.wa.gov.au/events/plastic-not-so-fantastic](http://whatson.kwinana.wa.gov.au/events/plastic-not-so-fantastic)** to register.



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through the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account