

October 2022

recycle right newsletter

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



FOGO COMPOST PRODUCTS TO EXPAND

The FOGO system provides residents with more options for separating their waste to improve recovery rates, increase diversion from landfill and reduce costs of processing material. Organic waste diverted from landfill means less production of harmful greenhouse gas, methane.

Raw Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) is being received, pre-processed and decontaminated at Resource Recovery Group's Canning Vale site and transported offsite for maturation. Our composting partners Purearth and GO Organics are now producing FOGO-derived bulk and bagged products, resulting in FOGO-derived products such as compost, potting mix and landscape mix, available for retail purchase either in bags (Brunnings brand) or in bulk (at landscape yards or from Little Loads). Promotional bags of 'FOGO Compost' were produced and have been given away at four community events over the past year and we have been receiving some great feedback. Residents and councils are delighted to see their food and garden waste go 'full circle' and have it as an option to use in their gardens and in council projects.



The FOGO Processing Facility at Canning Vale has the capacity to provide around 30% of the projected processing required for the Perth/Peel metropolitan area FOGO roll out. Currently, we are processing approximately 25,000 tonnes per annum while our licence allows us to process 109,200 tonnes, so are well below capacity. Marketing material is being produced to communicate to new customers partnership opportunities, especially in the FOGO processing space. A range of product types is planned with consistent recommended retail pricing. The design of a FOGO Garden Soil bag is also currently underway.

You can view a [video of the FOGO process](#) on YouTube.



PACKED HOUSE AT **WASTE & RECYCLE CONFERENCE**

The annual Waste and Recycle Conference was held on 14-15 September at Crown. Once again, Resource Recovery Group sponsored the event and hosted a booth in the exhibition area with our FOGO compost together with our GREAT Games on display.

This year's conference was hosted by the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia (WMRR), Department of Water & Environmental regulation (DWER) and Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA). The conference focused on 'RE-thinking WA by reducing, recovering and remanufacturing'. Guest speakers were Hon. Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment; Climate Action followed by Michelle Andrews, Director General of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Keynote speakers were science communicator extraordinaire

Dr. Karl Kruszelnicki and sustainability expert Professor Peter Newman AO. There were five Conference streams this year: Infrastructure and Strategy; Behaviour Change and community engagement and empowerment; Climate contribution and action; Onshore markets and sustainable procurement and Circular economy. Resource Recovery Group's Brendan Doherty was part of the panel discussion on 'Starting with an end in mind – unlocking the FOGO supply chain' – covering why we need to keep it clean, following the supply chain from input through processing and how to ensure a quality final product.

It was great to see the conference organisers also partnering with **OzHarvest** to rescue any leftover food, transporting it to local charities who support people in need. \$10,000 was also donated towards their goal of a new refrigerated food rescue vehicle.





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MURAL PAINTING



Work has commenced on the painting of an art mural on the wall of the Community Garden at the Canning Vale Centre. Jade Roycroft, a Murdoch University sustainability student/artist, has been working on this project as part of her industry internship. The design, inspired by the flora and fauna found in the banksia woodland on-site, was approved and then stencilled onto the wall. Staff and volunteers then took time out of their day to assist in completing the painting. It was a fantastic day, and everyone enjoyed being a part of collective team with a shared vision. The Community Garden is now a piece of architecture that contributes to our sense of place. As you can see, it is a lot brighter and staff as well as visitors will enjoy the Replas recycled picnic table, the abundant fruit trees, vegetables and herbs growing in the garden that now has this beautiful mural.



BIN TAGGING: RESIDENTS ‘WISHCYCLING’ AND CONFUSION

The Bin Tagging Program sees our Community Waste Education Officers making visual inspections the content of residents’ bins prior to pick up on collection day. A ‘happy’ or ‘sad’ tag is left on the handle of the bin to provide feedback about how well residents are using the bins or what can be improved. The 2022 bin tagging program held earlier this year from February-April saw a total of 2,275 households in Melville and Fremantle involved in the education program. Key lessons that the program revealed was a need to educate more about:

- Not placing soft plastics in the Recycling or FOGO bins
- Rinsing containers prior to placing them in the Recycling bin
- Only using compostable bags in the FOGO bin
- Miscellaneous contamination (Recycling & FOGO) – ‘Wishcycling’ is a large contributor to the high instances of miscellaneous contamination observed in the recycling bin as residents are confused about what items are accepted and place items in the bin in the hope they will be recycled.

The Recycle Right website and App continues to be an invaluable resource to help you to Recycle Right. Despite whether you have 3-bin FOGO (Food Organics, Garden Organics), 3-bin GO (Garden Organics) and 2-bin, you can visit recycleright.wa.gov.au/ to find out what goes in which bin, access an ever-growing A-Z list of items and what to do with specific waste items along with a Find My Nearest database of drop-off locations.





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MODERN CLOTH NAPPY WORKSHOPS



Are you looking to make the switch to cloth nappies? Join Kam Andrews “The Nappy Guru” for a series of workshops to learn about using and maintaining cloth nappies. Kam will demonstrate different cloth nappies available and explain the benefits of each. For dates visit bit.ly/3yRgBh7



GROWN FOR THE BIN: OUR PROBLEM WITH FOOD WASTE

By Tegan Sharp – Tegan is a graduate of a Communications & Media/ International Studies double degree and a passionate sustainability advocate.

The term *food waste* is often misunderstood as the kitchen scraps or inedible bits of food that go into the bin. In reality, the term is used to refer to all the perfectly edible food that goes uneaten. This includes the two-week-old asparagus at the bottom of your fridge, the old banana going brown in the fruit bowl, and the half of your meal that you couldn't finish at the restaurant last night.



Let's start by bringing you up to speed on [the latest food waste facts for Australia](#):

- Food waste costs the economy around AUD\$36.6 billion each year.
- Approximately 7.6 million tonnes of food across the supply and consumption chain is lost annually. To put that into perspective, this equate to about 312kg per person, one in five bags of groceries or AUD\$2,500 per household per year
- Food waste alone accounts for around 3% of Australia's annual greenhouse gas emissions
- Australia uses around 2600 gegalitres of water to grow the food that is wasted – the volume of water in five Sydney Harbours!!
- The amount of land used to grow wasted food covers in excess of 25 million hectares, a landmass larger than the state of Victoria!

Take a minute to breathe and digest that absolutely mindboggling information. Once you're feeling ready, you can read on to figure out how we can clean up this mess. While it may feel daunting after what you've just read, the good news is that it is possible to turn this tide... and it starts with YOU!

According to non-profit food rescue organisation **OzHarvest**, the Top Five Most Wasted Foods in Australia are: fruits, vegetables, bread, bagged salad and leftovers. This makes sense given that they have a shorter shelf life when compared to the other packaged and preserved foods we consume. Being more aware of how long foods last and how much we really need is a great start in reducing our food waste. A lot of our food waste is a result of our habits and to change how much we waste we must look into the habits relating to how we buy, store and eat food.

Find out some [Practical Tips for Reducing Food Waste at Home](#)



REVISIT OUR ONLINE WEBINARS



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IN-PERSON COMMUNITY TOURS



Since July, our in-person tours at Resource Recovery Group's Canning Vale Centre have recommenced!

Why not join a tour of our facility to see first-hand what happens to your waste when it leaves your kerbside?

On the tour you will:

- have a short presentation about the Resource Recovery Group;
- view the Materials Recovery Facility where recyclables are separated, baled and sold for reuse;
- see the Green Waste Facility, where garden waste is turned into mulch;
- learn about our very own Community Garden;
- visit the biofilters outside the FOGO Processing Facility; and
- view a video of the complete FOGO process.

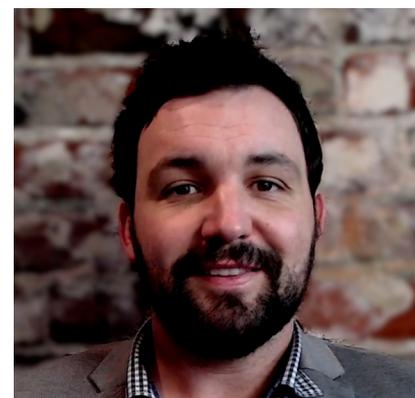
We will then return to the Education Centre for questions. For upcoming tour dates, visit bit.ly/3NXXG8T

Recycle Right has held several webinars over the last 12 months, inviting experts to come together to discuss a particular waste topic. In July, we engaged in '[Ditch the Disposables: Best practice reusables for business](#)'. In August, during National Science Week we examined [Glass Recycling in WA](#). Another favourite from last year has been our discussion with Rebecca Gleghorn from REDCycle to talk about '[Saving soft plastics with REDCycle](#)'. These webinars were recorded and are available to view on the [Recycle Right YouTube Channel](#). Please subscribe to be kept up-to-date of future webinars and new videos!

WELCOME TO LUKE STEWART

who joins the Recycle Right team as Communications Officer

To be afforded the opportunity to work in the field of sustainability is a privilege and I am very eager to collaborate with my colleagues to create a more sustainable and educated State. When I was child, I was mesmerised by a spandex-clad Captain Planet that flew across my TV screen, green mullet billowing in the wind. Such was his sway



that an interest in the environment and sustainability was immediately engrained into me. However, my draw to education was stronger than my then current desire to be a Planeteer and I completed my Bachelor of Education (Secondary), a Bachelor of Arts (English major, Communications minor) and embarked on a twelve-year journey of teaching and academia at Curtin University. Happily, the 'indoctrination' of Captain Planet and the Planeteers never eroded throughout my teaching career. During my tenure, I undertook a Masters in Asian Studies and wrote my thesis on redesigning Perth's trains to become a more sustainable city. This journey has landed me at Resource Recovery Group to use my professional knowledge, creative media skills, and education background to contribute to the fantastic work that they have already accomplished. I have become a Planeteer... of sorts. Ecstatic to be part of the team!



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EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE RECYCLING MARKETS

Mixed plastics joined the Australia waste export ban in July 2021 and single resin/polymer plastics, that have not been processed, were added to that list in July 2022. As a result of these bans, raw form plastics are not able to be sent overseas for processing. Resource Recovery Group currently sends plastics from the yellow-topped recycling bin to South Australia for reprocessing. Over the past months, negotiations have been underway with a Chairay Sustainable Plastic Company to lease part of the space in our Canning Vale Centre for re-processing plastics into a flake for domestic and overseas recycled products markets. This means that plastics from the Canning Vale Centre will eventually feed directly into this plant! Chairay have received \$5.6 million from the Federal and State Government’s Recycling Modernisation Fund (RMF) to construct the 15,000 tonne per year plastic reprocessing plant and a 6,000 tonne sorting line for the Perth metropolitan region. We’re very excited that work has begun on preparing the space for Chairay.

Resource Recovery Group are leaders in providing best practice resource recovery solutions with a proven supply chain and high recovery rates. We:



Recycle materials to their highest practical value.



Innovate and implement new approaches to recycling and resource recovery.



Educate by providing tools to recycle right, reduce waste and live more sustainably.



Find out more resourcerecoverygroup.com.au/



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