



Environment Protection Authority

Go FOGO Grant Guidelines 2022

Applications close 4 pm 16 November 2022



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Go FOGO Grants are available to NSW councils to implement new weekly kerbside collection services for food and garden waste.

The grants are part of a suite of programs available to support councils to deliver efficient and effective weekly organics recycling services to households.

Guidelines

Overview

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Go FOGO grants support NSW councils to deliver weekly food only (FO) or food organics and garden organics (FOGO) services to their communities. These may be households that currently have no kerbside organics waste service or households with only a garden waste service.

It is planned to hold two grant rounds each year for four years starting in the second half of 2022.

Applications are due by 4 pm 16 November 2022 and must be submitted using the [SmartyGrants](#) platform.

Background

The NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 (WaSM) introduced new requirements for councils to provide food and garden organics collections to all NSW households by 2030. It also requires large food waste generating businesses to source separate food waste by 2025. The initiatives are designed to reduce organics waste in landfill, where it generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and instead create a clean stream of a valuable resource that can be processed into compost, used to generate energy or be converted to animal feed.

The WaSM supports the [NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1](#) goal for net zero emissions from food, garden and textile waste landfilled from 2030.

The WaSM includes a \$65 million allocation to support the transition to source separation of food and garden organics and \$4 million to increase food donation.

The Go FOGO grants program will provide up to \$46 million to support household source separation. This recognises that households account for the largest volume of organics waste going to landfill in NSW and therefore the highest proportion of emissions.

As well as the Go FOGO grant funding, the EPA will be delivering a range of programs to support councils to deliver the new source separated organics collection services, including:

- Scrap Together community education funding
- contamination management assistance
- joint procurement assistance
- organics infrastructure investment
- technical advice, information and expertise
- assistance to tap into carbon credit funding.

Program objectives

The objectives of the Go FOGO grants are to:

- support the effective rollout of weekly FOGO (or FO) services to 500,000 households that have no organics service
- support the effective rollout of weekly FOGO (or FO) services to 1,500,000 households that have a garden-only waste service
- provide additional support to councils with a significant number of multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) to deliver additional tailored communication to these properties.

Eligible applicants and projects

All NSW councils are eligible to apply for funding to roll out new weekly FOGO services or FO services to households that do not currently have a service. The service must be active within three years of the grant application approval.

Councils who have previously received funding under the Waste Less Recycle More organics collections grants are eligible to apply for funding to deliver new services only to households not covered by the previous funding.

The funding is only available to councils as they have the statutory function of providing waste services to households.

Eligibility requirements

Eligibility requirements are:

1. Funding supports rollout of new FOGO (or FO) services.
2. The new weekly FOGO (or FO) collection will start in less than three years from the date of the grant approval.
3. The new organics collection service is for a minimum of 10 years.
4. The new source separated organics bin-based service will be weekly.
5. All services include delivery of a kitchen caddy to the household with information on how to use the new service.
6. The collected food and garden organics must be treated at a lawful facility to make quality outputs in keeping with Circular Economy Policy principles.
7. An education campaign with three stages (pre, during and post rollout) must be implemented to encourage and support high resource recovery and the correct material in correct bin.
8. The education campaign includes food waste avoidance messaging.
9. Provision for yearly education within the new organics collection contract.
10. Education about what can go in the bin in line with the EPA position statement on what should and shouldn't be disposed of in FOGO or FO bins.
11. Submit the grant application using [SmartyGrants](#) by 4 pm 16 November 2022.

Applications that do not satisfy these conditions, as well as pilot-only applications, will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded.

Reporting and milestone payments

Sixty per cent of the grant amount will be paid on signing of the grant agreement.

A further 30% will be paid when the council provides evidence that the pre-service rollout education has begun, and new or updated processing and collection contracts comply with the grant eligibility criteria.

The final 10% will be paid when the council provides data on the outcomes achieved in the initial months of collection, how the grant funding was used, and confirmation of the final numbers of households with a new service. Council may choose to evaluate the outcomes of the new service through community satisfaction surveys, change in tonnage of organics collected and processed, low contamination rates in the FOGO bin, and low levels of organics in the residual bin. The final report must be received within six months of commencement of the new service.

Grantees are encouraged to liaise with the EPA regularly throughout the project. We may be able to help you with information, advice and lessons from other councils that have been through the tendering and delivery processes for new FOGO services.

Budget

The following funding is available:

- \$50 per household in single unit dwellings transitioning from no organics service to a weekly food and garden (FOGO) service
- \$25 per household in multi-unit dwellings with shared bins transitioning from no organics service to weekly FOGO (or food only (FO) services if no garden waste is generated on site)
- \$10 per household transitioning from garden organics (GO) services to weekly FOGO (or separate GO and FO collections where the GO is a minimum fortnightly and FO minimum weekly collection).

The number of eligible households per local government area is based on households with residual waste services and without kerbside FOGO or FO + GO published in the 2019–20 Local Government Resource Recovery Data Report.

Additional funding of up to \$50,000 is available to councils with a large number of multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) to deliver additional tailored communication. It is available only to councils with more than 10,000 multi-unit dwellings, or where MUDs account for more than 20% of housing stock. It acknowledges additional education may be required to engage residents in these properties and tailored education will be needed to address high resident turnover, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and action required in different MUD types.

The funding can be used for project investigation and planning, pilots, tender development, procurement of caddies and bins, delivery of education, audits and surveys related to the new weekly FOGO or FO service. Note, projects must be for a full-service rollout: projects that only include pilot(s) will not be eligible.

On completion of the project, grantees will be required to report on the percentage of funding spent on:

- preparation and planning
- bins, caddies and other infrastructure
- education
- monitoring/evaluation
- other.

If you receive the additional MUD funding you will be required to report separately on how that funding was spent and how the service rollout of education was adapted for MUDs.

Councils are not required to demonstrate a specific co-contribution amount in order to be eligible for the Go FOGO grants. It is recognised councils will invest significant in-kind co-contributions in preparing, implementing and managing new organics collection services.

Grant conditions

In addition to eligibility requirements, successful applicants will be required to sign and return a Deed of Agreement confirming commitment to comply with conditions of the funding, including:

- continue to comply with the eligibility criteria for the length of the grant agreement or pay back the funding
- reporting as described on page 2 of these guidelines
- hold appropriate insurance and public liability coverage
- acknowledge the support of the NSW Government in publications relating to the project, in accordance with the Deed of Agreement

- invite a NSW Government representative to any launch or public event associated with this funding.

A copy of the [template grant agreement](#) is available on the EPA website.

Key dates and timeframes

Applications must be submitted via [SmartyGrants](#) by 4 pm on 16 November 2022.

Following the assessment and approval process, successful applicants are expected to be notified in early 2023.

Assessment

Applications will undergo an eligibility check before being reviewed by an independent Technical Review Committee (TRC) using the criteria set out below. The dot points provide additional information on the types of considerations relevant to each criterion.

The TRC will also assess whether the project should be awarded the additional MUD funding.

The EPA Organics Unit is available to help applicants submit their application. Please email us on organics.recycling@epa.nsw.gov.au for assistance.

Criteria	Expected information
Project planning (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of existing organics services, if any • Available processing capacity for new FOGO services • Research and planning scoped or undertaken • Council and community support
FOGO (or FO) weekly collection rollout proposal (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preferred start date of new weekly FOGO (or FO) service • Number of households and multi-unit dwellings that will receive the FOGO (or FO) service through this funding • Diversion volumes anticipated, in what timeframes
Effective communication or education to support project goals (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a clear understanding of the target audiences • An ongoing education and communication strategy
A well-designed monitoring and evaluation plan to measure program success (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear aims and objectives • Multiple methods to monitor and report progress • A clear evaluation plan to measure success
Clear justification for additional MUD funding of up to \$50,000 (100%), pending success of the FOGO project application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and proportion of MUDs • Type of MUDs e.g., high rise vs villas and terraces • Proposed additional communication with MUD residents to increase efficient and effective use of the new FOGO or FO service