

District Council  
of Yankalilla joins

# War on Waste

Outlining changes to  
Yankalilla's Bin Service  
and the introduction of  
a new green organics bin  
service into Townships.



## **Our waste is growing at double the rate of our population with 52 mega tonnes generated a year. Australia is ranked 5th highest for generating the most municipal waste in the world (ABC War on Waste 2017).**

If we don't change our practices, the excess waste will increase pollution to the soil, water and air eventually making it near impossible to inhabit the planet. Increasing recycling helps to conserve natural resources, not only now, but for the enjoyment of future generations.

**The time for change is now.**

### **Did you know?**

- Every 10 tonnes of recyclable materials recovered is equivalent to taking 4 cars off the road permanently.
- Recycling one tonne of paper and cardboard saves 13 trees and 2.5 barrels of oil.
- Each aluminium can recycled saves enough electricity to run a TV for 3 hours.
- An individual who lets their daily newspaper go to landfill will cause 350 kilograms of extra carbon dioxide each year.
- Broken glasses do not go into your recycling bins. Just 5 grams of glass from drinkware is enough to contaminate an entire ton of recyclable glass.

In addition to the impact on the environment, the costs associated with sending material to landfill, including transport cost, landfill charges and State Government landfill levies are continually rising. Reducing material to landfill through better diversion and recovery will help offset future cost increases.

## **In 2014 a major bin audit was conducted by Council's waste provider, Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA).**

The audit found on average the general waste bin contained only 31% of waste appropriate to landfill, the other 69% was made up off:



**Since the 2014 audit, both Alexandrina and Kangaroo Island Councils have successfully introduced a fortnightly general waste collection in order to recycle more and send less to landfill. We have learnt from their experiences and success and now it is our opportunity to join the War on Waste.**

At the February 2018 Council meeting, a decision was made to move to a fortnightly Recycle and fortnightly general waste bin collections along with the introduction of a new fortnightly 240 Litre green organics bin service for townships.

The new service will have an initial cost to Council for the purchase and rollout of the new green organics bin and ongoing annual operating cost of more than \$250,000 to perform the collection. The increased financial outlay highlights Council's commitment to the War on Waste.

## Bins – now vs future

- Blue bin representing general waste 140 Litre bin
- Yellow bin representing 240 Litre recycle bin
- Green bin representing 240 Litre organics bin

The current configuration of bins over a four-week period is a total of 800 Litres of material collected as follows:



In townships with the new service and with the introduction of the green organics bin, over the four-week period an additional 440 Litres of material will be removed where the following 1240 Litres of material will be collected:



In the non-townships where there is more of an opportunity to dispose of green organic material within the property instead of providing a green organics bin service, Council will provide subsidised composting and worm farms. Under the new service, over a four-week period the following 760 Litres of material will be collected. The overall change is only 10 Litres less per week:



**We acknowledge that this is a significant change in waste management services in order to recycle more and divert less to landfill, but it is the right change to make for the environment and the rising costs of landfill.**

## Exceptional circumstances and additional bins

**Council understands that even with the best recycling practices that exceptional circumstances will exist.**

These include: households with more than five people normally in residence, children in nappies or those with special medical waste. These households may apply for an additional 140 Litre general waste bin and collection service, free of charge.

Exceptional circumstances application forms are available from Yankalilla Council offices and can be downloaded from Fleurieu Regional Waste Authority (FRWA) [frwa.com.au](http://frwa.com.au) and [yankalilla.sa.gov.au](http://yankalilla.sa.gov.au).

Applications, where possible, are to be made in person at Council offices and staff are available to help with enquiries. Additional bins can be purchased on an annual basis to assist households/holiday homes with greater amounts of waste (bin and collection fees apply). It is however hoped that with increased recycling and green organics collection, additional general waste bins should be unnecessary in most cases.

### Collection timetable

New waste calendars will be distributed defining the collection days. The collection pattern is as follows: the general waste and green organics bins (where provided) are collected on one week and the recycling bin is collected the next week. Collection day will be on Mondays.

Council understands there are times where there is increased waste and will be providing weekly collection of general waste bins over the busy December/January summer school holiday period.

As always, excess waste can be disposed of directly at the Waste and Recycle Depot, charges may apply.

Council will work with businesses, sporting complexes and multi-unit dwellings to determine the best configuration of bins. There are no changes proposed for the street bin collection timetable.

# Timetable

Date (2018)	Event
May	Initial information sessions to be held – see invite for dates and locations. Additional sessions to be scheduled throughout the year.
May–June	New green organics bins delivered in partnership with local sporting clubs.
May–June	New waste and recycling calendars defining collection days distributed.
1 July	New collection configuration of bins commences.

## Top concerns raised by the community

### **I may not be able to cope with only having the 140 Litre domestic waste bin collected once a fortnight.**

Council, through a series of information sessions, documentation and where required one-on-one discussions, will provide you with the tools required to recycle more and divert material away from the waste bin so that it doesn't end up in landfill. This will be assisted by the larger 240 Litre recycle bin moving from four-weekly to fortnightly and the introduction of a 240 Litre green organics bin in townships and subsidised composting and worm farm equipment in non-townships. Council has also introduced a special circumstances policy that will provide an additional waste bin free of charge, and where still required additional bins can be purchased.

## Top concerns raised by the community

### **I'm concerned my bins will smell more.**

The procedures that you already have to mitigate smells on a weekly basis are the same procedures when moving to fortnightly collection. This may include freezing 'smelly' food materials until collection day, rinsing packaging before putting in the bin, putting waste in a plastic or paper bag before putting into the general waste bin and keeping the bin lid closed. In addition, Council will be supplying a kitchen caddy and compostable bags for the disposal of food that will further contain smells.

### **We have our bins in a bin bank and they are often filled by others who dump their waste in and around our bins.**

Council will work with FRWA to remove some bin banks and pick up from kerbside where possible. Locking bins is also an option. It is advisable to paint your address on your bins to indicate to others that they are private bins. We are also going to monitor the situation and where required look at providing additional tourism waste disposal points.

### **Am I within the township boundaries and what are the rules about burning-off?**

The State Government Environment Protection (Air Quality) Policy 2016 was implemented in late 2016. The policy prohibits burning-off within Townships, without the written permission from Council, and restricts the burning of wood or other plant material for the purposes of domestic heating within a Township. This restriction on burning within townships further expedited the need for the introduction of the green organics bin. With the implementation of this policy, township maps were defined and can be found at [yankalilla.sa.gov.au/warowaste](http://yankalilla.sa.gov.au/warowaste)

# Green organics bin

Remember the motto *"If it grows, in it goes!"*

**The new 240 Litre green organics bin for townships will have a lime green lid.**

Sending organics like garden and food material to landfill not only fills the current domestic waste bin but creates methane, one of the worst greenhouse gases and 25 times more potent than the carbon pollution that comes from your car exhaust. We need to divert this food wastage away from landfill.

In reducing material to landfill our treatment of food is key. The 'Do Something Near You FoodWise' campaign [foodwise.com.au](http://foodwise.com.au) revealed that food wastage is massive and has provided the following statistics:

approx.  
**40%**

Approximately 40% of the average Australian household bin is food (in our region the audit revealed 27% of our general waste bin is food).

up to  
**20%**

Australians discard up to 20% of the food they purchase.

**\$1,036**

For the average Australian household \$1,036 of food is thrown away every year (enough to feed the average household for a month).

**\$8 billion**

Australians throw out \$8 billion worth of edible food each year equally 523kg per household which is the same as 5 average sized fridges.

**450,000**

If you add up all the food Australia wastes each year is enough to fill 450,000 garage trucks, placing these trucks end to end would bridge the gap between Australia and New Zealand, just over three times.

**Your food waste can now be collected in the new green organics bin where it is mixed up with other types of organics materials such as lawn clippings and prunings.**

It is taken to Peats Soils at Aldinga where it is heaped up into a big pile and turned into compost or mulch. The rich material is then sold to gardeners and farmers who use it to improve soil and help retain water, making plants grow better. Households without access to a green organic bin are encouraged to compost at home.

To further assist in the diversion of food from landfill, Council will provide free of charge a 7 Litre kitchen caddy and a roll of compostable bags. The kitchen caddy makes it easy to collect all kinds of food scraps, including bread, meat scraps and bones, egg and oyster shells, cheese, seafood and even tissues, paper towel and hair.

The caddy provides a lid to minimise smells and can sit on your bench top or under the sink. Once full, both the compostable bag and contents can be placed directly into your green organics bin. Collection of the caddy can be made from the Council office or at the information sessions. Households can place items directly into the green organics bin, or use their own collections containers.



## What can I put in my green organics waste bin?



Remember the motto *"If it grows, in it goes!"*  
Everything on this list can go in your green waste bin.

- Food scraps and peels
- Cake and bread scraps
- Fruit and vegetables
- Teabags, tea leaves and coffee grounds
- Meat scraps, bones and seafood
- Egg shells and oyster shells
- Cheese and yoghurt
- Leftovers
- Takeaway foods (e.g. pizza and chips)
- Apology flowers
- Shredded paper
- Tissues and paper towels
- Small amounts of cooking oil
- Hair (human and pet hair)
- Pizza boxes that have food stuck to them
- Newspaper-based cat litter (not other types of cat litter)
- Soiled straw or shredded paper animal bedding
- Wood ash (let it cool down first)
- Lawn clippings
- Sawdust
- Leaves, twigs and flowers
- Fallen leaves and fruit
- Prunings
- Branches up to 15 cm diameter
- Weeds (shake off as much soil as you can)

### REMEMBER

Unwanted food can be placed in the green organics waste bin.

## What can I put in my recycling bin?



Everything on this list can go in your recycling bin.

- Tins and cans
- Metal lids, contained inside a metal can (squash it so they don't fall out)
- Glass bottles and jars (NOT ovenproof glass, drinking glass, window glass or mirrors)
- Plastic bottles and containers (rinsed)
- Lids from plastic containers
- Cartons e.g. long-life milk, custard, fruit juice (rinsed)
- Paper, including newspaper and junk mail (NOT tissues or paper towels)
- Rates notices
- Egg cartons
- Cardboard boxes
- Clean aluminium foil, scrunched into a fist-sized or larger ball
- Clean pizza boxes
- Empty, dry paint tins
- Empty aerosol cans with lids off
- Clean empty plastic plant pots

### REMEMBER

Rinse your bottles and jars before placing them in the Recycling bin. It's OK to leave the labels on your recyclables. Any plastic containers that bounce back to their original shape when gently crushed are suitable for recycling. Soft plastics that do not hold their shape cannot be recycled and need to go in the general waste bin, or preferably taken to your local supermarket that accept soft plastics for recycling. **DO NOT** put your recyclables inside a plastic bag.

## What can I put in my general waste bin?

Everything on this list can go in your general waste bin.



- Plastic bags, including magazine and newspaper wrapping, cereal bags and soft plastic food packaging
- Foil-type bags
- Plastic wrap
- Plastic bin liners
- Plastic toys
- Polystyrene drinking cups, food trays and packaging
- Bubble wrap
- Nappies, including those labelled 'biodegradable'
- Cat litter (unless it is made of newspaper, which can go in the green waste bin)
- Smashed tennis rackets
- Vacuum dust (in a bag)
- Cigarette butts and ash
- Old clothing, shoes and fabric
- Irrigation and garden hoses
- Garden tools
- Loose plastic lids
- Crockery and drinking glasses (wrap in newspaper)
- Mirrors, oven-proof glass and window glass (wrap in newspaper)
- CDs, DVDs, video and audio tapes
- Dried-out paint
- Small quantities of: dirt, rocks or bricks, car parts, painted or treated timber (please take large amounts directly to the Yankalilla Waste and Recycling Depot)

### REMEMBER

Your bin can't be picked up if it weighs more than 75 kg.

## More information

In order to make the new service a success we need to ensure your material is sorted and goes into the correct bin.

Council will be investing heavily in education to assist and will have established a webpage full of fact sheets, hints and tips [yankalilla.sa.gov.au/waronwaste](http://yankalilla.sa.gov.au/waronwaste) with additional details located at [frwa.com.au](http://frwa.com.au)

We will also be distributing by post a series of education pieces, including magnets, to inform holiday makers of the system.

We will also run a series of education workshops on recycling and composting and if you just can't seem to get it to work we will also provide a one to one service with an education officer to visit your home or business if there is an issue with using the bins correctly.

Council will be assisted in the education through grant funding obtained from Green Industries SA who have developed in partnership with KESAB environmental solutions the Recycle Right © search engine, [recyclerright.sa.gov.au](http://recyclerright.sa.gov.au) and the Recycle Right © phone hotline **1300 137 118** to provide up to the minute information on how and where to recycle domestic materials in South Australia.

## Want to learn more about waste?

We suggest watching the following ABC program 'War on Waste with Craig Reucassel' [abc.net.au/tv/programs/war-on-waste/](http://abc.net.au/tv/programs/war-on-waste/)



**RECYCLE RIGHT**



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## What about items that can't go into a bin?

You can take items that cannot go in any bin to the Yankalilla Waste and Recycling Depot, Inman Valley Road, Yankalilla (phone 0409 674 982). These items include:

- E-waste (televisions, computers, monitors etc.)
- Oil and coolant
- Building and construction waste (steel, concrete, bricks, timber, builders' rubble)
- Car parts, tyres and car batteries
- Fluorescent tubes and light globes
- Halogen lamps, tubes and bulbs
- Mobile phones and batteries
- Printer cartridges
- White goods (fridges, freezers, microwaves)
- Dirt, soil and rocks

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## To further reduce waste, we offer the following handy tips

### **AVOID waste in the first place**

- Refuse junk mail if you don't want to read it
- Share magazines and newspapers or access them free at the library
- Store food in reusable containers
- Refuse to accept disposal coffee cups, bring your own reusable cup

### **REDUCE what you throw away**

- Buy products in bulk with minimal packaging
- Repair before replacing
- Use both sides of paper
- Minimise food waste and compost any scraps
- Use reusable cloth nappies instead of disposable ones

### **REUSE materials in an innovative way**

- Reuse glass and plastic containers
- Reuse gift wrapping paper and ribbon
- Buy refillable containers where possible
- Repair furniture or ask a Men's Shed for help or take to a repair café

### **RECYCLE products to save natural resources**

- Buy products made from recycled materials
- Turn organics into compost
- Recycle suitable containers
- Buy products with packaging that can be recycled
- Use websites like eBay or Gumtree to sell or give away goods
- Re-gift unwanted presents

Further information, forms and answers to frequently asked questions are available on the websites [frwa.com.au](http://frwa.com.au) and [yankalilla.sa.gov.au/warowaste](http://yankalilla.sa.gov.au/warowaste) and if you have any queries please contact FRWA by email [admin@frwa.com.au](mailto:admin@frwa.com.au) or directly on **8555 7405**

## As always Councils can be contacted on any of the below methods:



### Visit us online

[www.yankalilla.sa.gov.au](http://www.yankalilla.sa.gov.au)



### Send an email

[council@yankalilla.sa.gov.au](mailto:council@yankalilla.sa.gov.au)



### Call us

08 8558 0200



### Facebook

@districtcouncilofyankalilla



### Write a letter

Chief Executive, PO Box 9, Yankalilla SA 5203



### In person

1 Charles Street, Yankalilla



### By invite

Why not invite us to speak at one of your community meetings?

**Together we can make this War on Waste a success.**