

Burnside residents to undertake Australia's largest organics collection trial

Starting on 20 September 2005, almost 1,800 Burnside households will be participating in a large scale organics waste collection trial, with the aim being to understand the community's use and acceptance of new technology and determine the system's potential to reduce household organic waste going to landfill.

A partnership between the Burnside Council, East Waste, Jeffries and Zero Waste SA, the trial will see each household supplied with a small ventilated bench top container called the "Burnside Bio Basket" and a supply of compostable liner bags.

The bags are made from biodegradable material based on cornstarch, vegetable oil and compostable polyester. When commercially composted with other organic materials, they completely break down in approximately 30 days.

Throughout the six-month trial, residents will put all waste food items such as peelings, vegetables and meat scraps into the Burnside Bio Basket. Once full or every 2-3 days, the bag should be tied off and placed into the household's green organics bin for collection.

The trial area comprises the entire suburb of Erindale and parts of Kensington Gardens, Burnside, Kensington Park, Rosslyn Park and Hazelwood Park. These areas are considered to be representative of the broader Burnside community and are a mix of traditional allotments, semi detached dwellings, and units/ flats.

As part of the trial, the green organics bins in the trial areas will be collected on a fortnightly basis (instead of monthly) by East Waste and processed into compost by Jeffries at their sites in Wingfield and Buckland Park.

While this combination of compostable bag and bin is successfully used in Europe, it has not yet been implemented in Australia. This large scale trial will help fine tune it to Australian conditions and ensure any permanently introduced system is sustainable, effective and has community understanding and acceptance.

An extensive monitoring and auditing program will be instigated to gather data and feedback across all stages of the bio-organics disposal, collection and processing system.

Distribution of the bins and bags, together with an information brochure, collection date calendar and bin participation sticker will be completed by early September. An information hotline will be available to answer any questions from residents and four information sessions will also be occurring in early September for participants who wish to understand more about the process.

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“Approximately 54% of Burnside’s municipal waste is currently recycled and diverted from landfill each year, but as a council we are committed to continually improving our performance,” said Burnside CEO John Hanlon. “The involvement of our residents and the outcomes derived from this trial may help shape the way organics is collected in South Australia in the future.”

“The Jeffries Group is committed to establishing South Australia’s first best practice commercial scale food organics recovery facility. The Burnside trial enables critical methodologies to be tested and performance data to be recorded for input to the development of such a facility,” said Paul Bowden, Jeffries Group Project Manager – Sustainability.

“Up to half of the contents of an average household rubbish bin is food waste or organic material. If placed into landfill, this will break down without oxygen, producing unwanted leachates and greenhouse gases. However, if extracted and composted, it can be used as a high nutrient resource that can enrich soils, reduce evaporation and conserve water,” said Geoff Johnston, CEO of East Waste.

“Zero Waste SA’s support for the trial recognises the many benefits of diverting food waste from landfill and the potential of adapting this to other councils in metropolitan Adelaide by providing a documented case study,” said Zero Waste SA’s Chief Executive Officer, Vaughan Levitzke.

“Our target of diverting 75% of domestic waste from landfill by 2010 relies on addressing the food organic fraction. The trial is an important step towards meeting targets in South Australia’s Waste Strategy for householder waste.”

More written information about the organics trial is available from the main page of our website under the heading of [RESIDENT INFORMATION](#).

In this section there is a copy of the brochure delivered to residents, a question and answer sheet, a copy of the stickers and some images of the trial.

For any other enquiries, please call our [BURNSIDE BIO BASKET HOTLINE](#) on **8347 5127**

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About the trial partners

City of Burnside

The City of Burnside is one of Adelaide's oldest residential areas, covering 28 suburbs and having a population of approximately 42,000 people. Burnside is well known for its established tree lined streets and open space areas, and has almost 200 hectares of natural reserves and developed park areas within our 30 square kilometre area.

The Burnside Council has a strong commitment to heritage protection and is a leader in environmental and conservation management practices.

East Waste

East Waste is a regional subsidiary of six Adelaide metropolitan Councils, is responsible for the collection of household domestic waste, recycling and green organics in Burnside; Norwood, Payneham & St Peters; Campbelltown; Walkerville; Mitcham and Adelaide Hills.

Each year East Waste is responsible for the collection of almost 35,000 tonnes of household domestic waste, 22,000 tonnes of household recycling and 20,000 tonnes of green organics material.

Jeffries Group

Family owned and operated, Jeffries has been receiving, processing and marketing recyclable organic products throughout South Australia since the 1920s.

A leading environmental company, Jeffries works with public and private sector organisations to promote environmental sustainability by minimising organic resource being sent to landfill, and maximising its use to improve the fertility of our nutrient depleted soils.

Each year they receive and process over 80,000 tonnes of recyclable organics. These materials include lawn clippings, branches and prunings that come to Jeffries via councils, kerbside collections, and garden maintenance contractors.

Zero Waste SA

Zero Waste SA is a State Government department that has the primary objective of promoting waste management practices that, as far as possible, eliminate waste or its consignment to landfill and advance the development of resource recovery and recycling.

South Australia's Waste Strategy 2005-2010 sets out waste reduction goals and targets for South Australia and includes measures to achieve these goals and targets. Under the plan, by 2010 75% of all waste (including food waste) put out by householders for kerbside collection will be recycled.