



Send your food and garden waste to a better place

A green bin for food and
garden organics

T 03 5018 8100
www.mildura.vic.gov.au/GreenBin



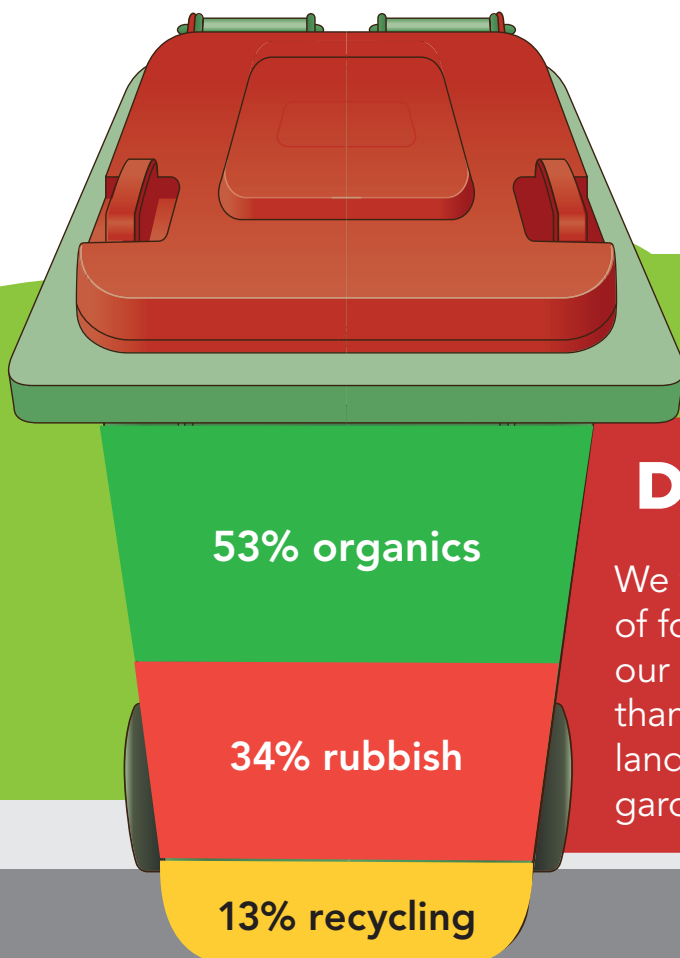
Mildura Rural City Council

Why do we need a green bin?

On average, more than half the contents of your red landfill bin is food and garden organics. Landfill should be our last option for waste disposal. Not only is it very expensive, landfilling is a huge environmental issue because it means resources are lost instead of recycled.

Keeping garden and food organics out of landfill is the most important waste management priority at local, state and national level. In a landfill environment, food and garden organics produce leachate that can pollute groundwater and waterways. It also produces methane, which is 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Those exact same organics in a compost environment do not produce methane.

If everyone across our region uses their green bin we can potentially cut the amount of waste we send to landfill by 39 per cent.

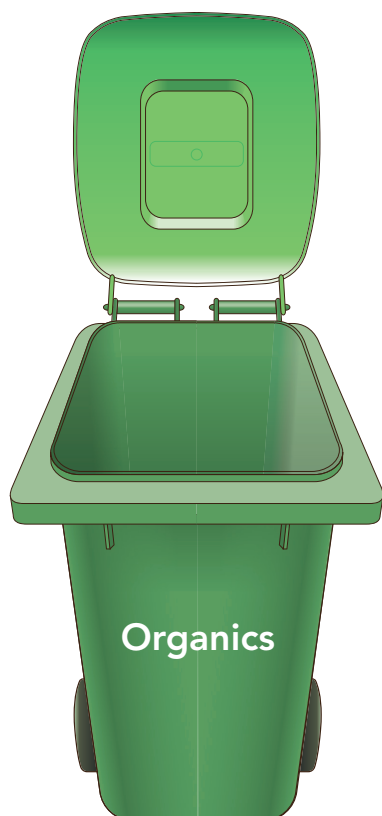


Did you know?

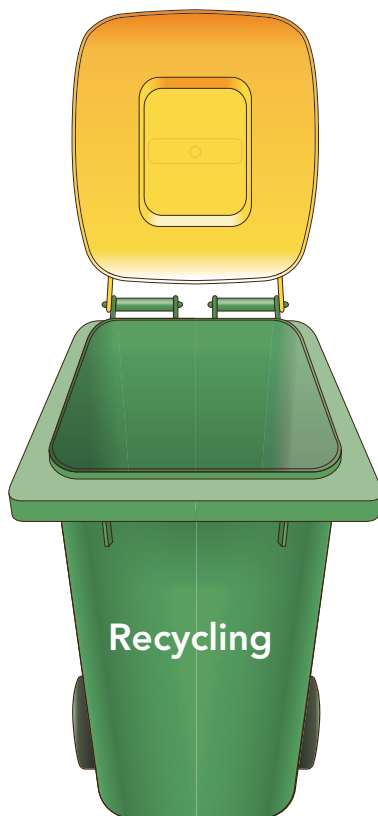
We threw more than 6,000 tonnes of food and garden organics in our rubbish bins in 2019. More than half of the average red landfill bin contained food and garden organics.

The new green bin service

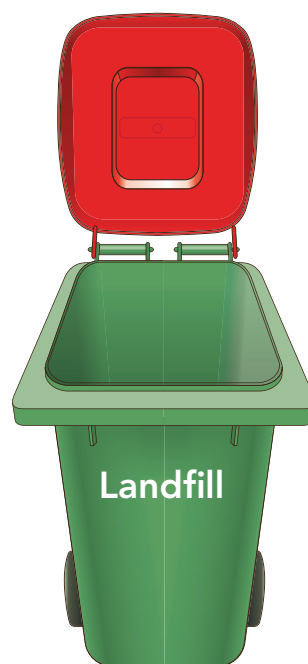
We're introducing a green bin for food and garden organics in July 2020. Everyone in the Mildura Rural City Council area with a kerbside bin service will receive a third bin.



Emptied weekly
on your usual bin day
(new service)



Emptied fortnightly
on your usual bin day



Emptied fortnightly
on the alternate fortnight to
your recycling collection

Check your bin day on our website or using the Loddon Mallee Waste Info app. Bin collection calendars are also available from Council.

When does the service start?

May-June 2020

Green bins, kitchen caddies and compostable caddy bags will be delivered during May and June 2020. You will also receive helpful information about how to use these correctly.

6 July 2020

Our contractor, Cleanaway, will start emptying green bins the week commencing Monday 6 July 2020.

Contact us if you haven't received your green bin by June 26

What can go in the green bin?



- Fruit, nuts and vegetables
- Pet waste (including poo), fur and feathers
- Pizza boxes
- Meat, seafood and bones
- Breads and grains
- Egg shells
- Newspapers and paper
- Cheese and yoghurt
- Compostable caddy liners
- Tea bags and coffee grounds



- Vacuum cleaner dust
- Soft plastics
- Disposable coffee cups
- Plastic bags
- Soil and sand
- Treated or painted timber
- Stone, rocks and rubble
- Rubbish
- Nappies and feminine hygiene products
- Syringes and medical waste

Get a complete A-Z Guide to what goes in your bins at www.mildura.vic.gov.au/GreenBin or download the Loddon Mallee Waste Info app.

Where will the organics go?

Once collected from the green bin, your food and garden organics are taken to a commercial composting facility and turned into a soil conditioner. This valuable product is used to improve the health of our soils.



Your kitchen caddy

Use your caddy to collect all household food waste – even things you can't compost at home like meat, dairy and seafood. You can wash the caddy by hand or in the dishwasher.



Keep the lid closed on your caddy and empty it every 3-4 days to reduce odours

Compostable caddy bags

Compostable caddy bags are specially made to decompose along with the organic material they contain. These are the only bags that can be put in your green bin.

You can also use newspaper, paper towel or nothing at all to line your kitchen caddy. You can buy compostable bags from a range of local retail outlets and online.

Compostable Vs Biodegradable

Compostable bags are made of plant materials and break down during the commercial composting process. These are the only bags that can be accepted through our green organics bin service.

While biodegradable bags break down faster than regular plastic bags, they still take many decades to disappear and will contaminate your green organics bin.

Organics collected in biodegradable or plastic bags will not be accepted through our green bin service.



Look for the AS 4736 symbol when buying compostable bags



Adjusting to a fortnightly red bin collection

When the weekly green bin service gets underway, your red landfill bin will be emptied once a fortnight. On average, more than half of what gets put in red landfill bins is food and garden organics. Putting this in your new green bin will free up more space in your landfill bin. There's also lots of other ways you can make space in your red bin and keep waste out of landfill:

- Reduce how much waste you create
- Reuse and recycle as much as possible by choosing items with minimal packaging
- Take reusable bags when shopping
- Compress air out of garbage bags and tie them tightly
- Avoid using large, bulky garbage bags which take up more room
- Learn what you can recycle in your yellow bin and at our Transfer Stations
- Consider sustainable alternatives to items such as nappies, sanitary products, cling wrap and disposable coffee cups.

What about smell and insects?

All waste has the potential to create odours which can attract insects, particularly in extreme heat conditions, which are unavoidable in our region. Food and garden organics are often the biggest culprits when it comes to smell, and these items will be collected in your weekly green bin. To keep bin odours at bay, you can also:

- Store bins in a shaded, well-ventilated area
- Keep bin lids closed flush by not overfilling your bins
- Scrape solid waste off nappies into the toilet
- Tie used disposable nappies in a plastic bag (or consider double-bagging)
- Wash your bins and kitchen caddy regularly (the caddy is dishwasher safe)
- Keep meat and seafood scraps in the freezer in a compostable bag and put in the green bin the night before collection
- Empty your kitchen caddy into your green bin every 3-4 days
- Ensure compostable bags are tied properly to contain food scraps
- Sprinkle bicarbonate of soda in your kitchen caddy.
- Place a layer of garden waste over food waste to reduce odours in the green bin

Already composting at home?

Even if you're already composting or using your food scraps for chooks, there are lots of other things you can use your green bin for. Consider it an opportunity to extend on the great work you're already doing to reduce waste and help the environment.

Unlike your residential compost heap, at a commercial compost facility, the process is scientifically monitored, achieving temperatures well above those you normally achieve at home.

The new green bin service accepts many food and garden organics that you can't traditionally put in a home compost or worm farm. These include meat, bones, bread, seafood, dairy products, citrus fruits, onions, oils and kitchen paper towels. In the garden, things like diseased plants, weeds, pet manure (loose or in a compostable bag) and fruit fly infected fruit (bagged in a compostable bag and left in the heat/freezer) can go straight in the green bin.

Don't want a green bin?

The green bin for food and garden organics will be provided to everyone that currently has a kerbside bin service. There is no option to opt-out of this service. It is vital that everyone makes an effort to use their green bin if we are going to reduce how much organic waste we send to landfill. No matter how little organic matter you throw out, it all adds up in the end.

Council encourages everyone to make sustainable, environmentally-friendly choices with their food and garden organics. If you're using a home compost system, have chooks or do not produce any garden waste please keep up the great work.

