

MEDIA RELEASE

Garden Waste Pilot Program success - Tuggeranong now eligible to opt-in for the Garden Organic Green Waste Bin

The pilot has been operating in Kambah and Weston Creek, since April 2017. In this time, over 8,000 residents have opted into the service to help manage their green waste in a cost and time effective way, with environmental benefits.

The pilot program has been a great success, with positive feedback received during the pilot phase, many residents state they find the service 'fantastic' and encourages them to garden.

During this time 1,072 tonnes of green waste has been collected from participating households and diverted from landfill, to be recycled into high quality soil and compost products.

Residents currently participating in the pilot program have done exceptionally well at reducing contaminants from entering the system, with a contamination rate of 0.05% overall.



Green tags provided to households that have presented contaminant free bins during weekly bin checks.

Keeping contamination rates low is important to ensure the green waste does not end up in landfill and the quality of the end product is high.

The common contaminants include:

- Recyclables
- Plastic bag
- Bin too heavy
- Treated and processed timber
- Food waste

Here are some helpful tips to ensure you are recycling correctly and your bin can be serviced, suggested by Regina Johar, the Education Officer for the Garden Organics Green Waste Program.

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- Plastic bags are a large problem if they enter the system; they can cause processing issues and alter the quality of the end product. Remember to remove your green waste from plastic bags before placing it into your green waste bin.
- If you are unsure on how to recycle or dispose of an item visit: https://www.act.gov.au/recycling/a-z_waste_and_recycling_guide for an A-Z Recycling guide.
- If you have too much food waste, start your own worm farm! Visit https://www.cleanup.org.au/PDF/au/cua_wormfarming_fact_sheet.pdf for tips on starting your own worm farm.
- Bins presented must be less than 50kg in weight, please do not overfill your bin. Remember items such as wet grass and soil can add significant weight to your bin. Please note soil is also a contaminant and should not be placed into your green waste bin. Be mindful to dust off any roots prior to placing it in your green waste bin.
- If you have too much green waste for one collection, you can put it aside for your next collection day. Alternatively, you can still self-haul your excess green waste to Corkhill Bros at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre, or to Canberra Sand and Gravel at West Belconnen Resource Management Centre.

Sign up now!

If you are in **Kambah** and **Weston Creek**, you can still sign up for a garden organic green waste bin.

Tuggeranong residents are now able to opt-in for a green waste bin, with collections starting from late January.

Thank you for your ongoing support of this initiative. To sign up for the service or to find out more information, visit the website www.actgreenwaste.jjrichards.com.au, or contact JJ Richards on 02 6270 5070.