

# It's time we think differently about waste.

Have your say on how we get it sorted.



# What is happening to our waste and recycling services?

In line with State Government changes, Victorians will soon be sorting their household waste and recycling into four streams. All local government areas, including the City of Ballarat, will soon transition to a new glass service and a new food organics and garden organics (FOGO) service.

Under the Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021, all Victorian councils must introduce a FOGO collection for all households by 2030 and a separate glass recycling collection by 2027.

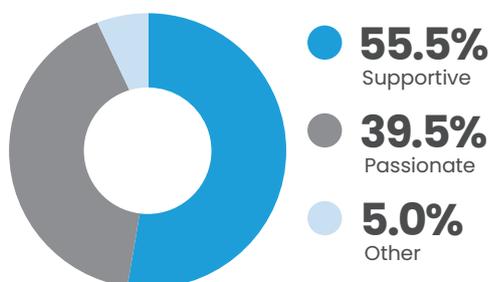
## What have we heard?

The City of Ballarat has been considering what this will look like for our residents and asked our community to complete a survey to help guide the development of the options to be considered. The survey was open for more than five weeks and closed on 18 December 2022.

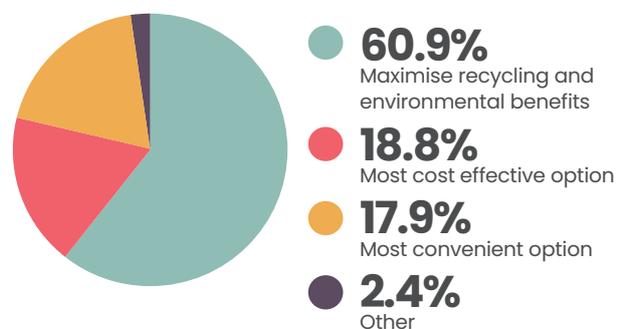
A total of 2,176 responses were received from a diverse range of residents and household types.

The summary of survey results is provided below.

### 95% OF RESPONDENTS ARE PASSIONATE OR SUPPORTIVE OF RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT



### PRIORITIES FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER



Based on your feedback, this Kerbside Transition Options Paper presents the service options being considered by Council. The FOGO, household waste and glass collection options are based on environmental benefits, cost effectiveness and convenience to households.

## What did we learn?

### HOUSEHOLD WASTE

On average how full is your kerbside household waste bin when it is put out for collection?

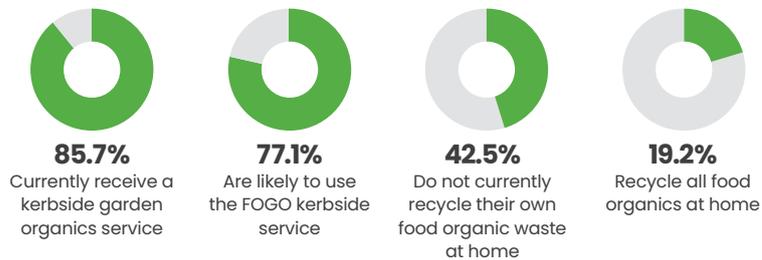


### MIXED RECYCLING

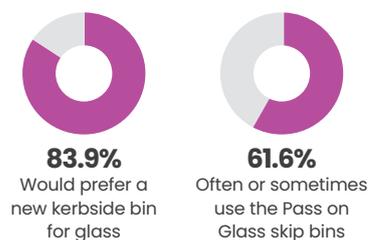
On average how full is your mixed recycling bin when it is put out for collection?



### FOGO (FOOD ORGANICS/GARDEN ORGANICS)



### GLASS



## As you consider the options, please note:

- There is no change to the current mixed recyclables (yellow lid) collection
- Some residents have a red lid on their household waste bin and others have a dark green lid on their household waste bin
- Based on community feedback from the last survey, the glass collection options being considered are for a new purple lid bin.

# FOGO and household waste services

## What are the issues?

### We waste too much food

Food makes up 42 per cent of our household waste, which adds up to an estimated 10,000 tonnes of food that is thrown out by City of Ballarat residents every year.

### Food waste is expensive

It is expensive to send this large volume of food waste to landfill. Waste levies, set by the State Government, have increased substantially in recent years and are expected to continue to increase in the future. Diverting food waste from landfill will reduce landfill costs for City of Ballarat residents.

### Environmental impacts

Diverting food waste from the household waste bin will reduce the volume of methane, a powerful gas that contributes to climate change, that is generated when organic waste breaks down in landfill.

Collecting FOGO separately will allow this valuable resource to be repurposed. For example, it can be transformed into compost that can be used by households and businesses.



## Community feedback

The introduction of a FOGO service builds on the success of the current garden organics service. Recent survey results indicate that three-quarters of respondents are satisfied or very satisfied with their current kerbside organics service and that 77 per cent are likely to use a FOGO kerbside service.



## What could FOGO and household waste collection services look like?

Based on community feedback, there are three options for collection of your FOGO (light green lid) bin and household waste (red lid or dark green lid) bin:

FOGO and household waste service option	Your current service	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
		Fortnightly FOGO Weekly household waste	Weekly FOGO Fortnightly household waste	Weekly FOGO Weekly household waste
<b>Organics bin (light green lid)</b> 	<p>A garden organics (GO) only bin provided as standard to detached properties. Other households can opt-in to the service for an annual cost (2022/23 charge \$72/year). GO bins are collected every two weeks.</p> <p>Standard bin size is 240 litres.</p>	<p>All households* would have a FOGO bin.</p> <p>FOGO bins would be collected every <b>two weeks</b>.</p> <p>Standard bin size would be 240 litres.</p>	<p>All households* would have a FOGO bin.</p> <p>FOGO bins would be collected <b>every week</b>.</p> <p>Standard bin size would be 240 litres.</p>	<p>All households* would have a FOGO bin.</p> <p>FOGO bins would be collected <b>every week</b>.</p> <p>Standard bin size would be 240 litres.</p>
<b>Household waste bin (red lid or dark green lid)</b> 	<p>Household waste bins are collected <b>every week</b>.</p> <p>Standard bin size is 140 litres.</p>	<p>Household waste bin would be collected <b>every week</b>.</p> <p>Standard bin size is 140 litres.</p>	<p>Household waste bin would be collected every <b>two weeks</b>.</p> <p>Standard bin size is 140 litres.</p>	<p>Household waste bin would be collected <b>every week</b>.</p> <p>Standard bin size is 140 litres.</p>

\*The three options provide a FOGO service to all households that receive kerbside waste and recycling services, rather than just those currently receiving a green waste service.

## How do the options compare?

An indicative model was created for each option, which allows us to compare their environmental benefits, cost effectiveness and convenience for households. The model used data that was current in January 2023. The model results are indicative and the actual service costs incurred and additional costs per household will be dependent on the final service model chosen, government funding and market rates when the service is implemented.

**In each of the scenarios the volume of organics recovered increases because:**

- More properties are being serviced
- Organics are diverted from household waste and therefore from landfill
- Collection of additional organics e.g., home composters diverting materials they previously managed at home to the FOGO bin.

FOGO and household waste service option	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	Fortnightly FOGO Weekly household waste	Weekly FOGO Fortnightly household waste	Weekly FOGO Weekly household waste
Additional service costs per year	<b>\$1,500,000</b> +18%*	<b>\$800,000</b> +9%*	<b>\$2,200,000</b> +26%*
Additional cost to each ratepayer per year	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$16</b>	<b>\$45</b>
Additional organics recovered per year (more is better)	An estimated <b>5,500 tonnes</b>	An estimated <b>10,500 tonnes</b>	An estimated <b>8,000 tonnes</b>
Avoided CO2 emissions per year (more is better)	An estimated <b>2,000 tonnes</b>	An estimated <b>5,000 tonnes</b>	An estimated <b>4,000 tonnes</b>
Reduction in waste sent to landfill per year (more is better)	An estimated <b>3,500 tonnes</b>	An estimated <b>8,500 tonnes</b>	An estimated <b>6,000 tonnes</b>
Change for current service	Least change	Most change	Moderate change

FOGO and household waste service option	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	<p><b>Fortnightly FOGO</b> <b>Weekly household waste</b></p>	<p><b>Weekly FOGO</b> <b>Fortnightly household waste</b></p>	<p><b>Weekly FOGO</b> <b>Weekly household waste</b></p>
<p><b>Pros</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Least change to current service</li> <li>• Will satisfy residents who have high volumes of household waste.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Less household waste</b> – residents that put food waste in the FOGO bin will have less waste in their household waste bin. Lower waste volumes and removal of smelly food waste means household waste bins will not need to be collected as often.</li> <li>• <b>Weekly FOGO collection</b> – more regular collection of FOGO bins will avoid unwanted smells and pests.</li> <li>• <b>Lower costs</b> – more waste out of landfill leads to greater landfill levy savings which offsets more of the costs associated with providing the new FOGO service.</li> <li>• <b>Better use of FOGO bin</b> – evidence from other councils providing weekly FOGO and fortnightly household waste collections show this option encourages the greatest use of the FOGO bin by households.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Moderate change</b> to current service.</li> <li>• Will satisfy residents who want to have their FOGO and household waste bins collected weekly.</li> </ul>

FOGO and household waste service option	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	Fortnightly FOGO Weekly household waste	Weekly FOGO Fortnightly household waste	Weekly FOGO Weekly household waste
<p><b>Cons</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Least amount of waste diverted from landfill</li> <li>• Minimal reduction in CO2 emissions</li> <li>• Has the second highest price increase to households</li> <li>• Less food waste diversion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community concerns relating to volume and odour issues arising from fortnightly household waste collection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Highest costs</b> – collecting both FOGO and household waste bins every week is costly.</li> <li>• <b>Less food waste diversion</b> – experience from other councils shows maintaining weekly household waste collections reduces the incentive for households to put food waste in their FOGO bin. This may lead to less waste diverted from landfill, lower avoided CO2 emissions and smaller landfill levy savings.</li> </ul>

\* Increase costs compared to 2022–2023

**In summary, the table shows that:**

- **Option 1** (fortnightly FOGO, weekly household waste) has the least change for households from the current service, however it has the poorest environmental outcomes with the lowest volumes of organics recovered, lowest avoided CO2 emissions and lowest waste volumes diverted from landfill. This option is expected to have the second highest additional cost to households.
- **Option 2** (weekly FOGO, fortnightly household waste) has the best environmental outcomes with the highest volumes of organics recovered, highest avoided CO2 emissions and highest waste volumes diverted from landfill. It is also the most cost-effective option and is expected to result in the smallest cost increase to households.
- **Option 3** (weekly FOGO, weekly household waste) has the highest expected cost increase to households. This option has better environmental outcomes than Option 1 but poorer than Option 2.

## **Scenario that best meets our community's priorities.**

Option 2, the weekly FOGO service and fortnightly household waste service is the best performing scenario. This option best fits what you told us. In the recent survey, respondents said their top two priorities for the City of Ballarat to consider are -

**1.**

**Maximising recycling and environmental benefits**

**2.**

**Choosing the most cost-effective option**

# Glass recycling service



## What are the issues?

The City of Ballarat moved to separate glass from mixed recycling in 2019, introducing a Pass on Glass system. Under this system, residents stopped adding glass to their yellow-lid recycling bins, instead taking their glass to drop-off sites.

Separating glass from other recycling improves the quality of these materials because broken glass becomes stuck in these items, reducing their ability to be recycled.

### Cost impacts

Replacing the current Pass on Glass drop-off service with a glass kerbside bin will increase waste collection costs as it requires the introduction of an additional kerbside service.

### Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

The State Government will be introducing a CDS across Victoria in 2023. A CDS will provide a 10c return on eligible drink containers at collection points. It aims to reduce litter and increase recycling. It is not certain exactly how the CDS will impact the amount and type of recyclables collected in household bins. It is expected that the CDS will receive at least 20 per cent of household glass volumes.

### Environmental impacts

Introducing a kerbside glass service is expected to increase the volume of glass recovered for recycling each year.



## Community feedback

Recent survey results indicated 84 per cent of respondents would prefer a new kerbside bin for glass, while 62 per cent of respondents often or sometimes use the Pass on Glass skip bins. The introduction of a new kerbside collection would result in the cessation of, or significant change to, the Pass on Glass service.



## What could a glass collection look like?

Based on community feedback, there are two options for how we sort our glass recycling using a purple lid bin:

Glass service option	Your current service	Option 1	Option 2
		Monthly glass collection	Fortnightly glass collection
<b>Pass on Glass drop off</b>	Residents drop-off glass to 9 Pass on Glass skip bin locations across Ballarat		
<b>Glass bin (purple lid) 140 Litre</b>  		Glass bin would be collected <b>monthly</b>	Glass bin would be collected kerbside <b>every two weeks</b>

## How do the options compare to the current service?

Glass service option	Option 1	Option 2
	Monthly glass collection	Fortnightly glass collection
Additional service costs per year	<b>\$500,000</b> +118%*	<b>\$850,000</b> +196%*
Additional cost to each ratepayer per year	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$17</b>
Additional glass recovered per year	An estimated <b>250 tonnes</b>	An estimated <b>250 tonnes</b>
<b>Pros</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More convenient</b> – kerbside glass collection is more convenient for households than the current drop-off service</li> <li>• <b>More glass recycled</b> – kerbside collection is expected to increase the volume of glass recycled.</li> <li>• <b>Lower cost</b> – picking up glass bins monthly is less costly than fortnightly collection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More convenient</b> – kerbside glass collection is more convenient for households than the current drop-off service</li> <li>• <b>More glass recycled</b> – kerbside collection is expected to increase the volume of glass recycled.</li> </ul>
<b>Cons</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>More expensive than drop-off</b> – collecting household glass bins monthly is more expensive than the current drop-off service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Higher cost</b> – collecting glass bins every two weeks is more costly than the current drop-off service and Option 1.</li> </ul>

## **Option that best meets our community's priorities.**

Both kerbside glass service options show an expected increase in glass recovery compared to the current Pass on Glass drop-off service, while also being more convenient, accessible and a preferred service model for most residents.

Option 1, monthly kerbside glass service is the best performing scenario. The monthly kerbside collection is expected to be more cost effective for residents compared to a fortnightly collection. However, the provision of a monthly kerbside glass collection service is expected to cost approximately double the current Pass on Glass drop off service.

# Next steps

To help us decide on our future waste and recycling services, while balancing the costs and the benefits, the City of Ballarat is now seeking the community's views on this Kerbside Transition Options Paper. You can provide general feedback or tell us what you think by answering the questions below:

## FOGO

- Considering the pros and the cons of the options (including costs, diverting waste from landfill and avoided carbon emissions), how often do you think household waste and FOGO bins should be collected?
- Understanding that not all households are the same, would the ability to add an extra household waste bin (for an additional fee) help Option 2 work for you?

## Glass

- Considering the pros and the cons of the options (including costs, diverting waste from landfill and convenience), which option for glass collections do you prefer?
- For households that do not have space for a new glass recycling bin, what alternative works best for you?



# Have your say on how we get it sorted

## Online

Submissions can be made online at [mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au](https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au)

## Post

Letters addressed to the Circular Economy Project Officer can be mailed to  
**PO BOX 655**

**Ballarat VIC 3353**

quoting the reference Kerbside Transition Options Paper.

**Submissions are invited and will be received by the  
City of Ballarat until 5pm, 6 April 2023**

Feedback received from our community will be considered in the development of the Kerbside Transition Plan. The Plan and a proposed timeline for implementation will be presented to Council later this year.



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 [ballarat.vic.gov.au](https://ballarat.vic.gov.au)

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**BALLARAT** 