

MEDIA RELEASE

30 July 2021

GIPPSLAND REDUCING ORGANICS TO LANDFILL

Maximising resources and reducing waste to landfill are priorities that provide economic and environmental benefits and are essential nationally, state-wide and locally in moving toward to a circular, low carbon economy.

The Victorian Government is investing \$380 million in the implementation of Recycling Victoria, the state's circular economy policy and 10-year action plan to deliver a cleaner, greener Victoria with less waste and pollution, better recycling, more jobs and a stronger economy.

Upcoming initiatives to transform the state's waste and resource recovery sector include the implementation of a container deposit scheme, a ban on single-use plastics, a glass collection system, and industry and infrastructure development to bring about collection, processing and production innovation and efficiencies.

In addition, the implementation of a food organics, garden organics (FOGO) service aligns with several Victorian Government policies, strategies and initiatives and is scheduled to be in place across the state by 2030.

Subsequently, there is a lot happening locally over the coming years to support Gippsland's journey toward a zero waste, low carbon, circular economy.

According to Matthew Peake, Resource Recovery Gippsland Executive Officer, a clear benefit to the region is having all Gippsland councils on-board with the implementation of a FOGO kerbside collection service; a service that has been in place across Bass Coast for several years now.

"Valuing waste as a resource makes environmental and economic sense; in Victoria food and garden organics make up approximately 50 per cent of household waste going to landfill, with food comprising an average by weight of 36 per cent.

"Diverting food from landfill enables councils to support communities to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste and, in true circular economy style, produces a resource (compost) that can be returned as an asset to improve agricultural and horticultural productivity."

In Victoria, almost a third of councils are already trialling or providing a FOGO service for their residents and where it has been successfully implemented, a great deal of community consultation was done by councils to ensure the development of fit-for-purpose collection and processing centred around the use of residents' existing garden organics (green-lidded) bin.

"Each council is at a different stage of their journey toward FOGO and there's a lot to put in place within the region to make this transition smooth and sustainable," said Mr Peake.

"To enable this, Resource Recovery Gippsland has been working closely with all six Gippsland councils on the Gippswide Kerbside project, a collaborative procurement approach to collecting and processing of kerbside waste.

"Gippswide Kerbside is all about councils coming together on behalf of their communities to leverage market-place efficiencies and cost effectiveness in the resource recovery sector," explained Mr Peake.

"This region-wide approach to the collection, processing and transport of waste, organics and recyclables will help maximise economic development and investment and provide positive environmental outcomes for Gippsland."

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For further information or comment, please contact Resource Recovery Gippsland:

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Background information:

GIPPSWIDE KERBSIDE

- To progress Gippsland's transition to a low carbon, circular economy, and to reduce the volume of material going to landfill, Resource Recovery Gippsland is working with councils to deliver a region-wide collaborative procurement project – Gippswide Kerbside.
- With a memorandum of understanding in place with each Gippsland council, Gippswide Kerbside is progressing to market through a tender process that will consist of four phases: organic waste processing, residual waste processing, comingled recyclables processing, and collection and transport.
- This tender process is designed to secure Gippsland's capacity to collect and process waste and recyclables consistent with the requirements of the Recycling Victoria policy.
- Gippswide Kerbside's tender process aims for a collaborative solution to the collection and processing of kerbside materials to deliver:
 - **increased resource recovery** and decreased landfill
 - **cost effectiveness** and economies of scale
 - **emissions reduction**
 - **regional investment** in value added services and infrastructure
 - **increased local employment** and procurement opportunities
 - a move to a sustainable regional **circular economy** model.