



Environment Protection Authority

# Go FOGO Grant Guidelines 2023

Round 2



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ISBN 978 1 922778 64 2

EPA 2023P4444

July 2023

Go FOGO Grants are available to NSW councils to implement new weekly kerbside collection services for food and garden waste.

The grants are part of a suite of programs available to support councils to deliver efficient and effective weekly organics recycling services to households.

# Guidelines

## Overview

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Go FOGO grants support NSW councils to deliver weekly food only (FO) or food organics and garden organics (FOGO) services to their communities. These may be households that currently have no kerbside organics waste service or households with only a garden waste service.

It is planned to hold two grant rounds each financial year for four years, starting from November 2022.

Applications must be submitted using the [SmartyGrants](#) platform. [Refer to the EPA website for details on the closing date.](#)

## Background

The NSW Government's [Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 \(WaSM\)](#) introduces new requirements for councils to provide food and garden organics collections to all NSW households by 2030. It also requires large food waste generating businesses to source separate food waste by 2025. The initiatives are designed to reduce organics waste in landfill, where it generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and instead create a clean stream of a valuable resource that can be beneficially reused.

The WaSM requirements also support the [NSW Government's Net Zero Plan Stage 1](#) goal for net zero emissions from food, garden and textile waste landfilled from 2030.

The Strategy allocated \$65 million to support the transition to source separation of food and garden organics and \$4 million to increase food donation.

The Go FOGO grants program will provide up to \$46 million to support household source separation, recognising that households account for the largest volume of organics waste going to landfill in NSW and, therefore, the highest proportion of emissions.

As well as the Go FOGO grant funding, the EPA will be delivering a range of programs to support councils to deliver the new source separated organics collection services, including:

- Scrap Together community education program and funding
- contamination management assistance
- joint procurement assistance
- organics infrastructure investment
- technical advice, information and expertise.

## Program objectives

The objectives of the Go FOGO grants are to:

- support the effective rollout of weekly FOGO (or FO) services to 500,000 households that have no organics service
- support the effective rollout of weekly FOGO (or FO) services to 1,500,000 households that have a garden-only waste service
- provide additional support to councils with a significant number of multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) to deliver additional tailored communication to these properties.

## Eligible applicants and projects

All NSW councils, who have not received funding via Go FOGO, are eligible to apply for funding to roll out new weekly FOGO or FO service to households that do not currently have a service. The service must be active within three years of the grant application approval.

The funding is only available for the provision of a weekly service. A weekly service delivers the highest performance efficiency, greater emission reductions from landfill and better dollar per tonne outcomes. Projects that propose fortnightly FOGO collections are not eligible for funding.

The funding is available to NSW councils as they have the statutory function of providing waste services to households.

Councils who have previously received funding under the Waste Less Recycle More Organics Collections grants are eligible to apply for Go FOGO funding to provide a weekly FOGO or FO service to households not covered by the previous funding.

## Eligibility requirements

Eligibility requirements are:

1. Funding supports rollout of new FOGO (or FO) services.
2. The new weekly FOGO (or FO) collection will start in less than three years from the date of the grant approval.
3. The new FOGO or FO services are for a minimum of seven years.
4. The new source separated organics bin-based service will be weekly.
5. All services include delivery of a kitchen caddy to the household with information on how to use the new service.
6. The collected food and garden organics must be treated off site at a lawful facility to make quality outputs in keeping with Circular Economy Policy principles.
7. Community education for the service introduction with three stages (pre, during and post rollout) must be implemented to support high recovery rates and low contamination risk.
8. Provision for yearly education within the new organics collection contract.
9. Ongoing education about what can go in the bin, aligned with the EPA's accepted FOGO or FO inputs.
10. Submit the grant application using SmartyGrants. Refer to the EPA website for details on the closing date.

Applications that do not satisfy these conditions will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded.

## Reporting and milestone payments

Sixty per cent of the grant will be paid on signing of the Funding Deed.

A further 30% will be paid when the council provides evidence that the pre-service rollout education has begun, and new or updated processing and collection contracts comply with the grant eligibility criteria.

The final 10% will be paid when the council provides data on the outcomes achieved in the initial months of collection, how the grant funding was used, and confirmation of the final numbers of households with a new service. Council may choose to evaluate the outcomes of the new service through community satisfaction surveys, change in tonnage of organics collected and processed, low contamination rates in the FOGO bin, and low levels of organics in the residual bin. The final report must be received within six months of the start of the new service.



Grantees are encouraged to liaise with the EPA regularly throughout the project. We may be able to help you with information, advice and lessons from other councils that have been through the tendering and delivery processes for new FOGO services.

## Budget

The following funding is available:

- \$50 per household in a single unit dwelling transitioning from no organics service to a weekly food and garden (FOGO) service
- \$25 per household in a multi-unit dwelling transitioning from no organics service to weekly FOGO (or food only (FO) services if no garden waste is generated on site)
- \$10 per household in a single or multi-unit dwelling transitioning from garden organics (GO) services to weekly FOGO (or separate GO and FO collections where the GO is a minimum fortnightly and FO minimum weekly collection).

For grant governance purposes, councils are requested to base the number of eligible households per local government area on the number of households with residual waste services and without kerbside FOGO or FO + GO, as published in [the most recent Local Government Waste and Resource Recovery Data Report](#), published on the EPA website. This provides the evidence base for the independent Technical Advisory Committee to determine the recommended funding amount for each successful applicant.

Additional funding (in line with the allocations shown above) providing up to 10% of the total funding may be awarded at the final milestone if the service is rolled out to more households than anticipated in the initial application. This acknowledges that due to the long timeframe between receiving funding and starting the new service, more homes may have come online. The final milestone payment will be reduced (in line with the allocations shown above) if less households than initially anticipated receive the service.

Additional funding of \$50,000 is available to councils with a large number of multi-unit dwellings (MUDs) transitioning to the new service. It is available only to councils with more than 10,000 MUDs, or where MUDs account for more than 20% of housing stock across the local government area. It recognises additional education may be required to engage residents in these properties and tailored education will be needed to address high resident turnover, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and tailored action required in different MUD types.

The funding can be used for project investigation and planning, pilots, tender development, procurement of caddies and bins, delivery of education, audits and surveys related to the new weekly FOGO or FO service. Only full-service rollouts are funded. Projects that only involve pilots are not eligible for funding.

On completion of the project, grantees will be required to report on the percentage of funding spent on:

- preparation and planning
- bins, caddies and other infrastructure
- education
- monitoring/evaluation
- other.

If you receive the additional MUD funding, you will be required to report separately on how that funding was spent and how the service rollout education was adapted for MUDs.

Councils are not required to demonstrate a specific co-contribution amount in order to be eligible for the Go FOGO grants. It is recognised councils will invest significant in-kind co-contributions in preparing, implementing and managing new organics collection services.

Grant funds cannot be used for items purchased or ordered before the Funding Deed has been signed by EPA and the grantee.

## Grant conditions

In addition to eligibility requirements, successful applicants will be required to sign and return a Funding Deed confirming commitment to comply with conditions of the funding, including:

- continue to comply with the eligibility criteria for the length of the funding deed or pay back the funding
- reporting as described on page 2 of these guidelines
- hold appropriate insurance and public liability coverage
- acknowledge the support of the NSW Government in publications relating to the project, in accordance with the Funding Deed
- invite a NSW Government representative to any launch or public event associated with this funding.

A copy of the [template Funding Deed](#) is available on the EPA website.

## Key dates and timeframes

Applications must be submitted via [SmartyGrants](#). [Refer to the EPA website for details on the closing date.](#)

Following the assessment and approval process, successful applicants are expected to be notified in late 2023.

## Attachments

Applicants may include attachments; however, information must still be provided for all questions within the application form. For applications that include multiple councils please include evidence such as letters or MOU's showing the councils' commitment to the project.

## Assessment

Applications will undergo an eligibility check before being reviewed by an independent Technical Review Committee (TRC) using the criteria set out below. The dot points provide additional information on the types of considerations relevant to each criterion.

The TRC will also assess whether the project should be awarded the additional MUD funding.

The EPA Organics Unit is available to help applicants with their application. Please email us on [organics.grants@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:organics.grants@epa.nsw.gov.au) for assistance.

Criteria	Expected information
Project planning (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Description of existing organics services, if any</li><li>• Available processing capacity for new FOGO services</li><li>• Research and planning scoped or undertaken</li><li>• Council and community support</li></ul>
FOGO (or FO) weekly collection rollout proposal (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Preferred start date of new weekly FOGO (or FO) service</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of SUDs and MUDs that will transition to a new service, including the service change</li> <li>• Diversion volumes anticipated, in what timeframes</li> </ul>
Effective communication or education to support project goals (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate a clear understanding of the target audiences</li> <li>• An ongoing education and communication strategy</li> </ul>
A well-designed monitoring and evaluation plan to measure program success (25%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear aims and objectives</li> <li>• Multiple methods to monitor and report progress</li> <li>• A clear evaluation plan to measure success</li> </ul>
Clear justification for additional MUD funding of up to \$50,000 (100%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number and proportion of MUDs</li> <li>• Type of MUDs e.g., high rise vs villas and terraces</li> <li>• Proposed additional communication with MUD residents to increase efficient and effective use of the new FOGO or FO service</li> </ul>