FAQs – Waste Management

The Barossa Council is committed to reducing waste to landfill. Over recent years our waste disposal and recycling rates have fallen short of our targets. We are exploring more ecologically sustainable ways of managing waste, to ensure we protect and preserve our environment for future generations. We are presenting three new waste collection options for the community to consider. Council believes these options will reduce waste and allow for greater diversion of rubbish from landfill to composting and recycling.

Click here to view a full overview of the proposed collection options and a breakdown of potential changes that may affect you.

Why are you thinking about changing the current system?

There are three key reasons for exploring new waste management options including the State Government Waste Reform program, rising costs in disposal of rubbish to landfill, and our commitment to minimise the impact of waste on the environment, as highlighted in our Corporate Plan.

Is it about saving money?

The State Government Waste levy will increase by approximately $3 per household in 2016/17 and an extra $21 per household by 2019/20. So this initiative aims to minimise the impact of the increased levy on our community by encouraging increased recycling and diversion of organic waste from landfill.

Will it cost me more?

Council has calculated an estimated cost for the service options averaged over a contract period of seven years, based on our best knowledge of future costs and service growth and utilisation. Click here to view the document that contains these estimated costs.

I am a rural resident, is the Green Organic Bin Service voluntary or mandatory?

Green organics bins are not mandatory for rural residents as rural properties have more space for composting and resource recovery on site. However, rural residents can opt to pay for a green organics bin at the same cost as township residents.
Am I getting less rubbish (red bin) picked up? How will I manage?

We estimate that approximately 40% of the waste you currently place within your red rubbish bin can actually be placed in a green organics bin. So whilst the new options propose that you will have less rubbish bin pickups, this will be offset by the introduction of a mandatory green organics bin.

Tips and ideas? If changes are implemented what should I be doing?

We will help you learn about what can be recycled and what can go in the organics bin. We’ve developed a suite of educational tools to help you understand how to get the best out of your waste collection service. If we recycle right, we reduce waste to landfill. Click here to find out more.

Will I receive a small kitchen bin to collect food scraps for the organics bin?

Yes, we will supply a kitchen bin and biodegradable bags to encourage you to reduce the amount of waste placed in your red rubbish bin.

I already have a green organics bin will I receive a new one?

Yes, Council’s contractor will supply new green organics bins for all residents who have an existing green organics service. You can keep the green bin you purchased for the previous voluntary collection service.

What if I have exceptional circumstances ie a large family, medical condition or special needs?

Upon application, Council will assess each individual case on its merits. Where adequate proof is supplied, we will upgrade the standard 140L red rubbish bin to a 240L red rubbish bin to cater for exceptional circumstances. This arrangement will be reviewed each year.

I’m worried that my waste bin will smell if the collection changes to fortnightly?

Smells would mainly come from food scraps, nappies and/or animal waste in your bin. Here are some suggestions:

- Keep the lid closed to trap odours in the bin
- Place food scraps in your organics bin
- Freeze smelly food waste (e.g., fish waste) until the bin is put out for collection
- Ensure that your bin is kept in good repair and reasonably clean, which will prevent odours escaping and deter pests and vermin

I’m a business and my rubbish bin is always full?

Commercial premises will be able to upsize to a 240L red rubbish bin at an additional cost and may request additional rubbish bins which are charged annually at the unit rate cost.

Will Council allow us the option of purchasing an extra waste bin?

Additional red rubbish bins will not be issued, however, additional yellow recycling or green organics bins will be available upon request and are charged annually at the unit rate cost.