

## Update for Participants



**The food recycling research project is more than half way and over eight weeks 19 tonnes of segregated food waste has been collected from across the seven residential food only collection areas, a positive result.**

As well, close to 2 tonnes of food waste has been collected from a small sample group of commercial and school premises in just 4 weeks.

Thank you and please continue your efforts so we can build up a good understanding of the challenges in managing food waste in our area.

It's not too late for residents who haven't yet started using the food caddy to join in.

If you get a chance to encourage your neighbours to participate, please do – the more food waste we can collect during the trial the more we will find out what it would take for a service to work in the future.



### **Feedback and responses**

As mentioned in the last Update, Councils have engaged commercial cleaning of the food bins, which is helping to

reduce the problems with odour.

Last time we reported that some residents were putting general waste in the food bin. Bin stickers in a community language to make clear that general waste doesn't belong in the burgundy-lid bin are helping to address this mistake.

Following feedback about the green bags breaking when they go into the food bin, we made inquiries with the supplier of the compostable bags

They told us that as well as the amount of food in the green bag the length of time the food spends in the caddy is a big factor in breakages, as the decomposition process starts and water is produced from the time the waste goes into the caddy, making it heavier.

The best approach is to empty your food caddy every 2 to 3 days even if it is not full, to minimise green bags breaking open when they are dropped into the food bin.

### **Tips**

- Make sure you close the lid of the food bin when you drop the green bags in, same with the food caddy – this avoids flies being able to get into the waste.
- The food caddy is a good destination for out-of-date packaged food hiding in the pantry – just be sure to remove food packaging from any food you are throwing out – this material can't be made into compost. See the image showing how packaging and

general waste can turn up in the food collection and interfere with (contaminate) the food waste.

- Double bag your caddy if you are finding bags are breaking.



#### **What happens at the end of the trial?**

- The trial finishes at the end of June and you will be able to keep the kitchen caddy.

- Food bins will be collected and re-used for other waste collections.
- We'll be asking you to complete a short survey on how you found the service and the experience of separating food from other waste
- We'll be making suggestions if you want to keep separating your food waste so look out for the next Update.

More about this at [nsroc.com.au/foodrecyclingtrial](https://nsroc.com.au/foodrecyclingtrial)



This project is a NSW Environment Protection Authority initiative funded from the waste levy



Unsubscribe: let us know if you don't wish to receive these updates by return email to [foodrecyclingtrial@lanecove.nsw.gov.au](mailto:foodrecyclingtrial@lanecove.nsw.gov.au).

[Unsubscribe](#)