



Australian Organics Recycling Association Ltd

W: [www.aora.org.au](http://www.aora.org.au)

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## Waste Less Recycle More:

AORA NSW spoke with NSW EPA's Organics Manager, Amanda Kane to find out more on FOGO and why it is important to AORA members, how the Waste Less Recycle More Grants can help AORA members' businesses and other benefits.

- **Why is it important to see more FOGO recycling and processing plants open in NSW?**

The EPA's \$802 million Waste Less Recycle More investment is all about diverting waste from landfill by recovering and recycling more waste. The goal is a 75% diversion target for all waste from landfill by 2021. Because food and garden waste makes up such a large part of the red lid bin going to landfill, it's critical that we recover and recycle it if we're to meet our targets. Recovering FOGO is also good for the environment. In landfill it rots to produce methane, a dangerous greenhouse gas. When it is recovered and recycled into compost, it becomes a valuable, beneficial product that is helping to improve our depleted soils, boost crop yields and improve water retention.

- **What do you understand to be key hurdles facing FOGO at the moment?**

Perception and misconception are probably the biggest hurdles to FOGO take up because the reality on the ground is that where communities introduce FOGO it's going really well. It beds down quickly, the community gets behind it and there's economic, environmental and social value in recovering the resource and turning it into something that improves soil health. Early results from the 24 FOGO projects we've funded through our collection grants so far show contamination is really low – some as low as less than half of one percent – and the change in service is also resulting in reduced contamination in the yellow lid bin.

There are obviously challenges to adding food in certain situations, like multi unit dwellings, where you may have issues like transient populations, storage to avoid odours and risk of higher levels of contamination. Our new funding for trial projects in units aims to explore and overcome some of those barriers. Ultimately, if they can successfully roll out FOGO in high density cities like Milan and San Francisco, we can do it here in NSW.

- **How can FOGO help processors reach more clients?**

We know from our market development grants that there's no shortage of markets for quality product. FOGO is an input that can enable a producer to make a top quality, highly beneficial product that's fit for a range of different purposes and markets.



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- **Who will benefit from using Compost with FOGO?**

Because compost made with FOGO has multiple benefits, anyone who buys a quality product made out of FOGO is going to benefit by putting that in their soil. Plus, as a community, we all benefit by having this valuable resource that is food and garden waste kept out of landfill, where it is wasted and causes environmental harm, to be recovered and turned into a valuable product that helps our environment.

For more information on available grants and how WLRM can help your business visit their [website](#).