Vision 2031 - FOGO

Who We Are

The Australian Organics Recycling Association (AORA) is the peak industry body and national voice for businesses across the organics recycling supply chain. AORA envisions a future where recycling and reuse of organic materials within a circular economy is widely understood and supported by all Australians. AORA works to facilitate an operating environment which maximises the recycling and reuse of organic materials, and promotes the benefits of compost, soil conditioners and mulches across the Australian community and business.

Introduction

This document has been prepared by AORA to provide a guidance framework for the key issues and considerations for the recycled organics industry throughout the transition from household Garden Organics collections to the mandated Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collections by 2030. It works in concert with AORA's national strategy roadmap, *Vision 2031: The 10 Year Roadmap for Australia's World Leading Organics Recycling Industry*, which states:

> *Amongst those ambitious objectives is a national target of less than 5% of organic waste to landfill by 2031. This document also addresses the greatest industry challenge, which is contamination of the feedstock. AORA supports a greater state and national focus on systemic and behavioural improvements to achieve better source separation. We support national bans on all non-compostable single-use plastics and persistent chemicals – the sooner the better. Above all, this industry vision calls for genuinely integrated decision making by all governments, reflecting the needs of a production cycle in a circular economy, and with greater long-term certainty around supply, operations, and demand.*

The recycled organics industry is committed to generating high-quality compost outputs that promote the protection of the environment and human health, specifically through the diversion of organic material from landfill. The success of FOGO mandates and the circular economy relies on materials being accepted in the dedicated FOGO bin, being not only theoretically compostable, but responsibly compostable within existing operations.

Guiding Principles – FOGO Inputs

1. The recycled organics industry remains committed to producing high-quality and high-performing compost products that are safe for application to land and to human health.
2. The supply of quality feedstock to the processor gate is the key component of the organics recycling supply chain. Clean, source separated feedstock without plastics, chemicals and other contaminants is central to the growth of organics recycling rates and production of high-quality outputs. FOGO is currently considered a high-risk feedstock.
3. Selected organics processing facilities will have the capability to recover at least garden organics, food organics, and certified compostable kitchen caddy liners for beneficial use. Other certified compostable packaging may also be included within the organics feedstock stream over time.
4. Wherever possible, all participants in the Australian resource recovery supply chain, particularly State and Local governments, deliver a common message on materials to be recovered by organics processing facilities supported by appropriate education materials. AORA supports messaging and education that is consistent, clear, and recurring.
5. The Australian organics recycling industry is supportive of the introduction of certified compostable materials, in all shapes and forms, when received through appropriate levels of consultation, controls and testing, supported by appropriate levels of education relating to use and disposal.
6. AORA recognises the important role that “certified compostable packaging” will play to help achieve Net Zero targets through composting and landfill avoidance of packaging, particularly food packaging. Moreover, AORA understands that viable commercial pathways for these products and their ability to be successfully and safely composted within the resource commercial organics recovery system are needed for a circular economy to flourish. Existing organics processing facilities will need to safely trial, pilot and develop new resource recovery initiatives so that existing processes can be adapted to allow for the safe and effective composting of innovative “certified compostable packaging not yet on the market replacing non-certified compostable packaging that has otherwise been condemned to landfill as not reusable nor economically recyclable “.