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You can also keep up to date with the Green Cone project at [www.bayside.vic.gov.au/greencones](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/greencones)



# How to lose 2.5kg off your waste and other **Brighter** ideas

Your guide to the  
Bayside City Council  
Green Cone Project.



#### Another Brighter Idea

Australians waste close to 4 million tonnes of food per annum, which equates to 178kg per person. It's worth remembering that every bit of food you throw out has cost money, so it makes sense to use as much of your food purchases as possible

# Four million tonnes

## About Bayside's food waste diversion project

Sending waste to landfill occurs at a cost to the community. This is a cost that we at Bayside Council would like to minimise. Ensuring that compostable materials are diverted away from the waste stream is a key way that we can work together to reduce the cost to the community.

Recently, Bayside Council was successful in securing grant funding for a food waste diversion project as part of our goal to reduce the amount of organics going to landfill. After an exhaustive search into possible solutions, we determined the 'green cone' to be a product that had the best combination of effectiveness, ease of use, and suitability for the Bayside community.

As you know, a key component of this project is the provision of green cone food waste digesters to 200 lucky Bayside residents as part of this pilot project. The aim of this project is to determine the effectiveness of the green cone as a means for diverting food waste from landfill.

Unlike a compost bin or a worm farm, the green cone accepts all kitchen waste; even meat, bones and cooked food! You simply place your scraps in the unit and pop on the lid. It's that easy! No turning is required as naturally occurring bacteria, warmth, and the flow of air does the work for you.

The duration of this project is 6 months. During this time, we may approach you and ask for the opportunity to discuss your experience with using the green cone. After the conclusion of the project, the green cone is yours to keep as a thank you for your participation.

## Using your Green Cone is easy

Step 1

**Pop food scraps into your kitchen caddy.**

Step 2

**When full, empty your kitchen caddy into your green cone.**

Step 3

**Close the lid.**

# 123

Step 1

**Pop food scraps into your kitchen caddy.**

Your green cone has been supplied with a convenient caddy that is designed to be kept in your kitchen to reduce the amount of trips you make to your green cone. Throughout the day, simply place food waste scraps into the caddy and then take it out to the green cone when it is full.

Your green cone can accept all kitchen food waste, including: fish, meat, poultry, bones, bread, pasta, soup, curry, fruit & vegetables, dairy produce, cooked food scraps, crushed egg shells, tea bags and coffee grinds.

**Please remember**

The green cone is not a composter, and as such cannot accept garden waste.



**Another Brighter Idea**

When food breaks down in landfill, it gives off a greenhouse gas called methane. This methane is 25 times more potent than the fumes that come out of your car exhaust.

# 1





Step 2

**When full, empty your kitchen caddy into your green cone.**

To help encourage a healthy bacteria population within your green cone, it is recommended that you sprinkle some accelerator powder onto the food waste in the green cone for the first 5-6 uses.

Your green cone is designed to be able to accept 1 full kitchen caddy every 1-2 days during summer, and 1 full kitchen caddy every 2-3 days in winter. This should be more than sufficient for the average family of 4.

2



**Another Brighter Idea**

When cooking, remember to prepare the correct serving size, as it's an easy way to reduce food waste. Think about investing in reusable (and recyclable) containers so you can freeze your leftovers to enjoy later.

Step 3

**Close the lid**

After depositing your food waste, take care to ensure the lid of the green cone is closed, and that you don't spill food waste on the external surface of the green cone, as this may attract vermin. This also ensures that the environment within the green cone is optimum for the breakdown of waste.

**Now your job is done. The green cone will take care of the rest.**

**Please remember**

To rinse your caddy, ready for the next load of food scraps.

3



**Another Brighter Idea**

Don't throw food out because you're about to go on holiday. Cook it up and freeze it so that when you come back, dinner is already prepared.

## How does the green cone work?

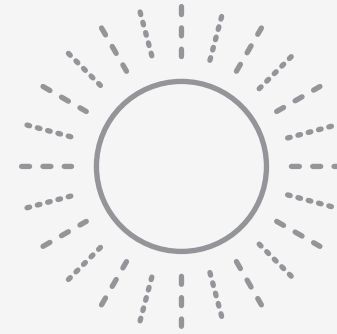
The green cone is a 'solar powered aerobic digester'. This means that it uses natural processes, air and warmth from the sun, to rapidly break down your food scraps.

In a well operating green cone, very little waste residue will be produced. If you are concerned that your green cone is not operating correctly, please consult the list of frequently asked questions over the page.

Over 90 per cent of waste material in your green cone will be absorbed as water by the soil

Choosing somewhere to put your green cone is easy. Pick a sunny spot in the garden, the sunnier the better, and ensure the area has really good drainage.

**Sunlight**  
Provides the energy source for the digestion process



**Removable lid**  
For easy access to digestion chamber

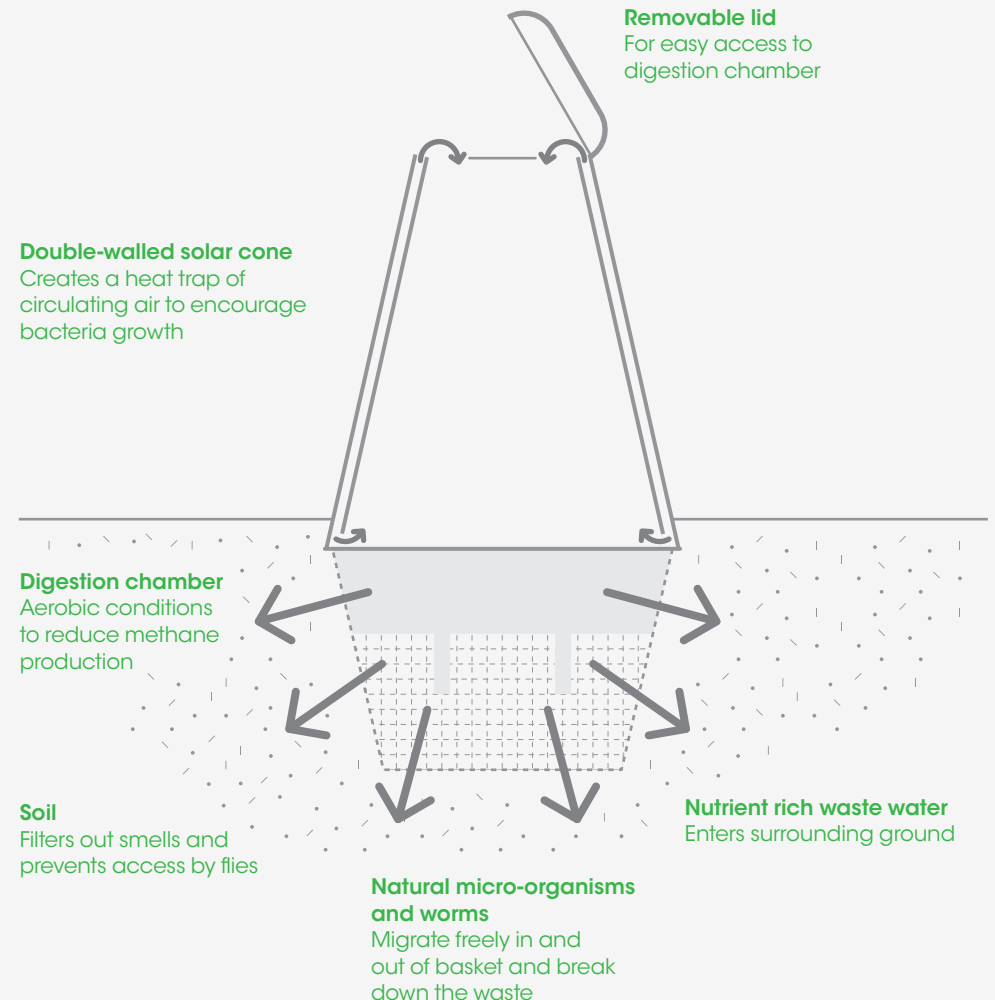
**Double-walled solar cone**  
Creates a heat trap of circulating air to encourage bacteria growth

**Digestion chamber**  
Aerobic conditions to reduce methane production

**Soil**  
Filters out smells and prevents access by flies

**Natural micro-organisms and worms**  
Migrate freely in and out of basket and break down the waste

**Nutrient rich waste water**  
Enters surrounding ground



## Frequently asked questions

What can I empty  
into the green cone?

Fish, meat, poultry, bones,  
bread, pasta, soup, curry,  
fruit including peelings,  
vegetables including  
peelings, dairy produce,  
cooked food scraps,  
crushed egg shells,  
tea bags and coffee.

**How can I tell if my  
cone is working?**

Look inside your cone. Can you see a blue/grey furry substance growing on your kitchen scraps? This is mould, and is an indication that your green cone is working. If you cannot see any mould, add accelerator powder for a few days until you can see the mould growing.

**Small flies come out of the  
cone when I open the lid. Is  
this a problem?**

The green cone is a sealed unit, and when properly installed emits no smells. It does not therefore attract flies. However, if food or food waste is not kept covered prior to going in the green cone, house flies may lay their eggs on the scraps, which will then hatch inside the cone.

**Please remember**

Under no circumstances  
use fly spray inside the cone.

## Frequently asked questions

### **The green cone smells, is this ok?**

This is normally due to poor drainage as water from the decomposition of the food waste is unable to escape. You will need to check the drainage and may need to relocate the unit to another location.

### **Can I put animal poo in the green cone?**

Yes, in moderation. Your green cone should be able to handle the excrement from one medium sized dog or cat. Should the cone begin to smell, you will need to reduce the amount of pet excrement that you are adding. When it is time to empty the cone, take care to wear gloves and make sure you wash your hands.

### **Will the green cone attract vermin?**

As the green cone is a sealed unit, it should not attract vermin when used correctly. Please take care not to spill waste on the ground around the green cone, or on its surface, as this may attract vermin.

#### **Please note**

Digested animal waste must not be used around your edible plants.

### **Do I need to empty the green cone?**

In a properly operating green cone, very little waste residue will be produced. For an average family of 4, the basket should only need emptying every 2-3 years. The remaining material can then be incorporated into your garden soil. To empty the green cone, simply remove the upper cones in order to access the basket.

### **Can I put garden waste into the green cone?**

No. The green cone is designed to only accept food waste. Garden material should be placed in a compost bin, or in your green kerbside bin for collection.





Reducing waste actually begins in the supermarket with products that we decide to purchase. Consider the following questions when deciding what to buy.



**Is it a whole food?**

Besides being healthier, whole foods (like fruit and vegetables) come in their very own compostable packaging.



**Is it organic?**

Our food has often been treated with pesticides, and in many cases, the effects that these pesticides have on human health and ecosystems is poorly understood. The best way to avoid any unintended health effects is to purchase organic products where possible.



**Is the packaging excessive?**

Food manufacturers sometimes use excessive packaging to present their products. Often this extra packaging is decorative and doesn't really serve the purpose of keeping food fresh. Some examples include individually wrapped tea bags, or pre-packaged cut fruit. Generally speaking, if there is more packaging than food, don't buy it.



**Is it produced locally?**

Imported foods generally have a larger ecological footprint than those produced locally. Farmers' markets are great opportunities to source fresh local produce. The Bayside Farmers' Market is held on the third Saturday of each month in Trey Bit Reserve, Jetty Road, Sandringham.

**Reduce waste by  
shopping smarter.**

**Thank you for  
taking part.  
Here's to a  
Brighter future  
for everyone.**