

## KERBSIDE ORGANICS EXEMPTION POLICY

<b>Approval Level:</b>	Council
<b>Policy Type:</b>	Council
<b>Approval Date:</b>	24/07/2024
<b>Review cycle:</b>	Every 2 years
<b>Review Date:</b>	24/07/2026
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Coordinator Strategy and Change
<b>Owner:</b>	Resource Recovery and Education
<b>Responsible Director:</b>	Presentation and Assets
<b>Relevant Legislation/Authority:</b>	Community Local Law <i>Environmental Protection Act 2017</i> <i>Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008</i>
<b>DOCSETID:</b>	4498059

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for an equitable, transparent and consistent approach to exemptions from the City's kerbside organics collection service.

### 2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The City provides a weekly organic waste collection service to all households within the municipality.

2.2 An exemption is available for those households that can demonstrate they are effectively and intentionally managing all food and garden material on their property.

### 3. SCOPE

This policy applies to all households within the municipality.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

**City** means the Greater Bendigo City Council, being a body corporate constituted as a municipal Council under the *Local Government Act 2020* (Vic).

**Exemption** means exclusion from the organics collection as per the essential services provided by the City.

## **5. PRINCIPLES**

This policy takes into consideration the City's Council Plan 2021-2025 Mir wimbul and is underpinned by the following Outcomes and Goals:

### **5.1 Outcome 5: A climate resilient and healthy landscape:**

#### **5.1.1 Zero Carbon**

#### **5.1.2 Circular Economy**

## **6. POLICY**

### **6.1 General**

6.1.1 All households are eligible to have an exemption from the kerbside organics service .

6.1.2 Households seeking an organics exemption must apply in writing to the Resource Recovery and Education Unit. Applicants must use the designated organics exemption application paperwork, or online form via the City's request system.

6.1.3 Households seeking an organics exemption must demonstrate that they can effectively manage all food and garden waste produced on the property on an ongoing basis. This includes demonstrating that the property has satisfactory and operational management systems in place such as composting systems, worm farms, household animals, mulching machinery and/or gardening contractors.

6.1.4 To gain approval for an exemption, households must undergo an onsite visit with a representative from the Resource Recovery and Education Unit to demonstrate sufficient and operational management systems.

6.1.5 Where properties are over 1 hectare or 2.5 acres, photos of management systems are to be submitted with the application and the City will not be required to undertake an initial household visit. Photos should clearly show that systems are operational, i.e. a photo of material inside an operational compost bin.

6.1.6 To maintain an organics exemption, households:

- a) must not utilise the general waste or recycling bin for the disposal of food or garden material unless approval is provided by the City's Resource Recovery and Education Unit; and
- b) will accept a request for a re-visit to have their onsite management system inspected by the City to ensure the systems are still in operation and are effectively managing all food and garden material. This also applies to properties over 1 hectare or 2.5 acres.

## 6.2 Exemptions

- 6.2.1 An exemption to onsite management will only be made when a contractor is used to maintain the garden. The contractor must remove all garden material for composting or other processing that diverts the material from landfill.

## 7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Resource Recovery and Education Unit are responsible for working with residents to ensure alignment with this policy. The Education and Project Officers (Resource Recovery and Education Unit) will be responsible for leading its implementation and reviewing the policy. Additionally, the Coordinator Strategy and Change and Manager of the Resource Recovery and Education Unit will oversee the implementation and provide guidance and assistance when requested by the Education Officers to ensure that fair and transparent decisions are made relating to the matter of organics exemptions.

## 8. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Readers are encouraged to access relevant documents and/or resources which are available as per the below:

- City of Greater Bendigo Application form for Exemption Kerbside Organics Collection Service
- TP9204 Organics Exemption Process Technical Procedure
- Resource Recovery & Education Code of Practice
- Greater Bendigo Council Plan Mir wimbul 2021-2026
- Greater Bendigo Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026

Further information or advice on this policy should be directed to Resource Recovery and Education

## 9. HUMAN RIGHTS COMPATIBILITY

The implications of this policy have been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

## 10. ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

It is recognised that, from time to time, circumstances may change leading to the need for minor administrative changes to this document. Where an update does not materially alter this, such a change may be made administratively. Examples include a change to the name of a City unit, a change to the name of a Federal or State Government department, and a minor update to legislation which does not have a material impact. However, any change or update which materially alters this document must be made through consultation with the staff Consultative Committee and with the approval of EMT or where required, resolution of Council.

## 11. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date Approved	Responsible Officer	Unit	Change Type	Version	Next Review Date
Nov 2020	Arushi Mehta	Resource Recovery	Policy updated	1	May 2022



		<i>and Education</i>			
<i>May 2022</i>	<i>Arushi Mehta</i>	<i>Resource Recovery and Education</i>	<i>Administrative updates</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>May 2024</i>
<i>July 2024</i>	<i>Bridgette McDougall</i>	<i>Resource Recovery and Education</i>	<i>Administrative updates</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>July 2026</i>