

Four-Bin Kerbside Service

FAQs

Q. Why is Council introducing the four-bin system?

A. The most simple answer is, because we have to. The four-bin system is a requirement as part of the Victorian Government's 10-year policy and action plan 'Recycling Victoria' to transform the state's recycling sector.

The less simple answer is we believe in the four-bin system. This is an opportunity for us to get better at recycling, creating environmental benefits and the potential for cost benefits for our community.

Q. So what exactly is the new four-bin system?

A. The new four-stream system is improving how we manage waste and recycling in Victoria. It will see glass, food organics and garden organics (FOGO), mixed recyclables, and household rubbish separated at home. This will achieve better recycling practices and contribute to reducing landfill.

Q. When we have a four-bin system in 2025, what will the collection schedule look like?

A. We can't tell you this just yet, because we need your input. We are currently seeking community feedback on the configuration of the four bins, and what you think will work best! Council engaged a consultant who developed three different collection scenarios; each with their own cost and waste diversion implications.

The consistent aspect of all three scenarios is the delivery of a 240-litre purple-lid bin for glass to all households with or eligible for a kerbside service, that will be collected monthly.

Q. Then how do I have my say on my preferred option?

A. We've developed a poll on www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au where you can vote for your preferred option. For those who don't have internet access, phone Council's Customer Service team on 1800 065 993 to have your say.

Q. Can you please explain the different options to me?

A. Yes. Along with our partner Councils in the Goulburn Valley Waste & Resource Recovery Group (GVWRRG), Council engaged Jackson Environment and Planning to create a business case on the

potential configuration of the new four-bin system, and the associated costs with each scenario.

The new service options, not only provide us with the opportunity to provide better and more recycling options, it also provides Council with an opportunity review costs in providing this essential service.

Under current arrangements, kerbside collections costs are expected to increase by 19 per cent in 2025/26, without the introduction of the kerbside reforms.

All of the scenarios present different price structures in addition to the 19 per cent which is an estimated increase due to inflation.

All of the new options presented will see a reduction of about 32 per cent in our commingled recycling – meaning more glass will be readily recycled – more space in your bin and potential savings on transport and processing costs.

Q. Why are the cost increases being presented as a percentage?

A. These changes will take place from the 1 July 2025, when the current contract expires. As a result, the cost can only be communicated via percentages as the current value of the dollar will change by the time the bins are instated.

Q. Can you tell me more about option one?

A. Scenario 1 would see an incremental increase of 16 per cent relative to the base case (19 per cent) in 2025/26.

This is predominately via the introduction of the monthly glass bin collection service. It is anticipated that costs associated with the collection and disposal of commingled recycling would slightly decrease as per the base case, while major changes to costs associated with the collection of residual and organic waste are not expected.

FAQs

The table below shows the changes (in bold) under option one.

	Residual waste	Commingled recycling	FOGO	Glasses	Cost Increase
Scenario 1	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Weekly	Monthly	16%*

Q. Can you tell me more about option two?

A. Scenario 2 would see an incremental increase of five per cent relative to the base case (19 per cent) in 2025/26. The services for residual and organics waste would remain the same as the base case, while the collection service of commingled recycling bins would change from fortnightly to monthly.

The change in frequency for commingled recycling reflects the anticipated change in the composition of the recycling bin with the addition of a glass bin and the container deposit scheme (to put it simply we expect there will be less materials in your yellow recycling bin).

All scenarios propose a 32 per cent reduction in volume and weight recycling bins, therefore, requiring less frequent collection. This scenario will potentially translate into a reduction in collection and transport costs, while maintaining strong waste diversion rates.

The table below shows the changes (in bold) under option two.

	Residual waste	Commingled recycling	FOGO	Glasses	Cost Increase
2	Fortnightly	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	5%

Q. Can you tell me more about option three?

A. Scenario 3 would see an incremental increase of 29 per cent relative to the base case (19 per cent) in 2025/26. The services for the commingled and organics waste would remain the same as the base case, whilst residual waste collection service would change from a **fortnightly** to **weekly** basis.

The frequency of residual waste collection (red bin) changed from weekly to fortnightly in 2015 in response to the new FOGO service (green bin). This

change has resulted in our Shire boasting a waste diversion rate above 70 per cent.

Returning to a weekly residual waste collection not only holds the greatest financial implication but will also impact the great inroads our Shire has made toward increasing our diversion of waste from landfill by sending a greater volume of waste directly back to landfill.

The table below shows the changes (in bold) under option three.

	Residual waste	Commingled recycling	FOGO	Glasses	Cost Increase
Scenario 3	Weekly	Fortnightly	Weekly	Monthly	29%

Q. How did you estimate the cost changes?

A. Each scenario and their associated percentage relative cost increases are estimated based on best practice utilising current business as usual and historical data. The actual costs associated with each scenario may be different than what has been estimated by 2025/26.

Q. Will all Victorian household have four bins?

A. How materials in each stream are recovered – when and where – will vary in each local government area. It is being done according to local needs and circumstances. In areas with kerbside collection services, households will move to a four-bin system. Households that do not have a kerbside service, or where one may not be possible, glass recycling may be accessed through drop-off points and/or transfer stations.

Q. Why is it so long before we are even delivered or can access a fourth bin?

A. Council's contracts for its kerbside and transfer station waste collections are some of our longest and most expensive. Waste contracts are also highly complex and prospective tenderers may have to submit multiple versions or edits to their proposed service to Council – which may be extremely time consuming. Once a prospective tenderer has been chosen, the cost and time to procure and implement the required infrastructure by the newly awarded tenderer may also take a substantial amount of time. Council usually goes to tender about two years prior to the start date of the new contract so ample time is

provided to create a seamless transition to the new contract.

Q. I don't have a kerbside service – what will I do with my glass?

A. Council will consider all options available to ensure there is easy access for all residents in the Shire to recycle their glass materials. These options may range from feasibility studies into potential kerbside route extensions to the extension of current services at our transfer stations and collection points to suit our rural population that utilise these facilities.

Also, the Victorian Government's container deposit scheme will be rolled out by the end of 2023. This will provide another resource for the recycling of glass. We will share more information on this scheme as it becomes available. More information can be found on this link <https://www.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme>.

Q. Why separate glass? Aren't materials separated and recycled at a sorting facility?

A. Glass, when mixed with other recyclable materials, shatters and contaminates valuable, easy-to-recycle materials such as paper and cardboard. This reduces these materials' quality and ability to be recycled. By separating glass effectively, more materials from the commingled recycling bin can also be recycled.

Q. When is the new household waste and recycling system starting?

A. It already has! Due to the size of these state-wide changes, this new system is being achieved across a staged transition. Councils and Alpine Resort Management Boards (ARMBs) are rolling it out in line with local community needs and specific local circumstances. Some local government areas already have services for separated glass and FOGO set up, while others have one or none, and are in the process of planning their own transition.

Q. We already have a three-bin system, but other Councils already have a glass bin – why don't we yet?

A. The new household waste and recycling system is a key component of the once-in-a-generation reform of Victoria's waste and recycling sector. It takes time to make sure local infrastructure such as bins, trucks, and processing facilities is in place. Appropriate markets are also needed for recycled products. We are working closely with industry, business, councils, and all Victorians to build a sustainable and thriving circular economy for Victoria. The State Government requires the rollout of the standardised four-bin system to be completed by 2030, with glass bins introduced no later than 2027. Our Shire is on track to have glass bins introduced by 2025, a whole two

years before then, and five years ahead of the full required transition to four bins.

Q. Will the things I can put in my recycling bin change?

A. The Victorian Government is in the process of developing a standardised list of accepted materials for each waste stream. Defining which items go in which stream, and making this the same for all Victorian households, will increase recycling and the quality of recycled materials, and mean less waste to landfill. Standardised lists will support the use of the new four-bin system and maximise the value we get from our precious resources. Keep up to date with these kerbside reforms and standardised lists here [Standardising recycling at home across Victoria | Engage Victoria](#)