



Why reduce food waste?

On average, household general waste wheelie bins contain over 50% organic waste that is sent to landfill. Organic matter in landfill breaks down without any oxygen (known as anaerobic decomposition) creating greenhouse gas emissions in the form of methane.

Methane emitted by landfills represents 3% of Australia's annual greenhouse gas emissions. Methane has a global warming potential 25 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide. Reducing the organic material that your business produces will help reduce the amount of methane gas emitted from landfill.

Landfills are unsustainable as they use large amounts of land, are expensive to run, require continual monitoring and can contribute to environmental impacts such as land degradation and pollution.

Reducing food waste saves money

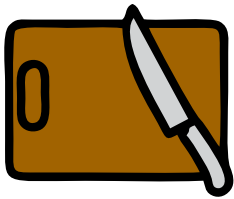
That's right, reducing food waste not only helps the environment, but also saves you money! Food is your business, why waste it? In Australia, 7.3 million tonnes of food is wasted every year, what a waste!

By implementing food waste reduction strategies, your business can save large amounts on food related costs. Savings can be made from both food purchasing and waste collection costs.

4 types of kitchen waste

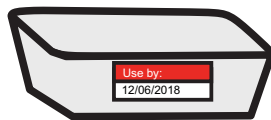
1. Preparation waste

Food that is wasted during the preparation of meals.



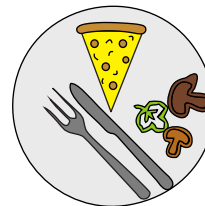
2. Spoilage

Food that is past the expiry date or damaged.



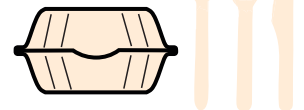
3. Plate waste

Food that is left over on plates after serving and wasted.



4. Organic servingware

Compostable servingware such as cutlery, napkins and plates that are thrown away after the product is consumed.



Look at your food waste and costs

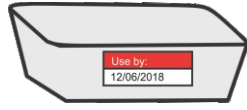
To implement food waste reduction initiatives, you first need to understand how much food you waste and what you spend on food purchasing:

- Determine how much you spend on food purchases each week or month
- Work out how much food you waste daily. You can do this with a waste audit (instructions and data sheets provided on Council's website).
- Determine where the majority of food is wasted (from preparation, spoilage or plate waste). Use the audit template provided by Council's waste education team in the website kit.
- Think about methods your business can put in place to reduce food waste according to the data you have collected. Examples of ways to reduce your food waste are shown on the following page.

How to reduce your food waste?

Organise Your Fridge

- Date your food storage containers and perishables
- Put the food that needs to be used first at the front



Educate and Train Staff

- Staff training session
- Educate staff on why it is important to divert food and organic waste from landfill
- Discuss plans and how they can help
- Have effective signage around your business to assist them with the process



Revise Your Menu

- Ensure your menu isn't too extensive
- Remove menu items that are rarely ordered or where significant food is wasted
- Use the same ingredients for multiple menu items



Reduce Portion Sizes

- Encourages customers to purchase dessert as they won't be as full
- Reduces customer costs per meal, which may increase demand and customer ordering an entree or sides



Offer Sides

- Have sides as an option
- Sides such as fries, vegetables or salad can be offered as an add on



Left Over ingredients into Chef's Specials

- Entice customers with new menu items daily
- Use leftover ingredients to reduce food being wasted
- Reduces food costs



Rethink Food Purchasing

- Review your stock order to ensure you only order what you need
- Avoid products that are individually wrapped or with non-recyclable packaging



Donate

- Donate food to charity services such as Food Bank and Ozharvest
- Refer to charity websites for specific guidelines
- Donate food waste to local animal shelter, local farm
- Give food waste to staff for pet food



Compost and Worm Farm

- Recycle organic material through composting and worm farming
- Fruit and vegetable scraps as well as paper and cardboard can be composted
- Provides nutrient rich soil for plants



Organic Waste Collection Service

- Organisations collect certain organic materials
- Commercial organics collection services with companies such as Cleanaway, Veolia, Suez, BioPak, T2 environmental or URM United Resource Management

