



Media Release

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Cockburn food businesses urged to join waste trial to test sustainability and environmental benefits

The City of Cockburn has launched a three-month commercial food waste trial to determine sustainability and environmental benefits for possible future adoption as a permanent service.

Local food retailers and restaurants are encouraged to apply to join what is the first free commercial food waste trial in Western Australia.

It has been made possible with an \$18,257 State Government Community and Industry Engagement grant, with 20 local businesses already signed up for weekly collections by a City of Cockburn 1.7 tonne waste truck until the beginning of November.

The trial is a partnership with Richgro, with the food waste being delivered for processing in its anaerobic digestion plant in Jandakot to help produce high-quality biofertiliser.

Excess electricity via methane capture from the plant, is then fed back into the grid.

City of Cockburn Waste Education Coordinator Clare Courtauld said up to 50-60 business could be accepted in the temporary free trial, depending on the waste type generated.

“Food waste is a nutrient-rich resource that if diverted from landfill, where its decomposition creates potent greenhouse gases, can be used to produce valuable biogas for electricity generation, compost and soil conditioners,” Ms Courtauld said.

“The trial will help the City determine the benefits of a commercial food waste collection service to reduce costs and improve resource recovery levels.

“Results will be analysed and reported to Council for a decision on future implementation if benefits of the trial can be proven.”



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Richgro CEO Tim Richards said the plant's capacity to process 137 tonnes of commercial and industrial organic waste per day, or 50,000 tonnes per year, had enabled more than 300,000 tonnes of waste to be diverted from landfill to date.

"Now that we have two 1.5MW generators, we can generate a maximum of 57,600KW per day, helping us to power the equivalent of 3,200 homes," Mr Richards said.

"By producing an average 60,000 litres of biofertiliser per day, we are powering homes right here in the City of Cockburn as well as the Richgro site running on green energy."

Cockburn food waste-producing businesses that want to apply for the trial are provided with training, 120 or 240 litre food waste bins and compostable bin liners.

The City's waste team will monitor the trial and any contamination, to ensure delivery of a clean product to Richgro.

To find out more about this trial or to apply, visit the City's [website](#). Applications will be assessed within five days.

Did you know:

- In Australia, more than 5 million tonnes of food ends up as landfill – enough to fill 9,000 Olympic sized swimming pools.

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For more information contact:
Media and Communications Officer
City of Cockburn
T: 08 9411 3551
E: media@cockburn.wa.gov.au