

Apartment Composting Program Fact Sheet for Owners Corporations

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The City of Stonnington's Apartment Composting Program helps residents of apartment buildings manage their food waste sustainably and avoid sending waste to landfill.

The Program supports Owners' Corporations to set up communal worm farms or compost bins on-site.

Participating apartment buildings are provided with:

- 40% off Hungry Bin worm farms or Green Cone solar composters
- A free workshop for residents – either online or onsite
- Free kitchen caddies for residents
- Access to information and support materials for successful ongoing composting or worm farming.

Residents involved in the program have enjoyed the opportunity to build community, improve their local gardens and help the environment.

WHY COUNCIL IS OFFERING THIS PROGRAM

In Stonnington, the average garbage bin contains 43% food waste, which is currently being sent to landfill. Food waste in landfill wastes money and resources as well as producing a negative environmental impact. In landfill, food waste produces methane, a greenhouse gas considered to be 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

The Apartment Composting Program provides residents who live in apartments the opportunity to keep their food waste out of landfill.

PROGRAM COSTS

Council will cover 40% of the cost of up to 3 composting systems, including worms for the Hungry Bin. Note: Council suggests one composting system for every ten residences.

Council also funds all other aspects of the program including workshops, support, signage etc.

The Owners' Corporation will need to pay for the remainder of the unit (see the Compost Revolution website for costs), and installation (units and signage).

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Step 1. Choose a composting system and find a location around the building.

Hungry Bin worm farm

- Self contained system that needs to be installed on a stable surface, in shade.
- Approximately the size of a large wheelie bin.
- Infrequent emptying is required by removing castings at the base
- Produces liquid 'worm tea': dilute and use as a plant fertiliser.
- Processes 2kg of food scraps daily.
- Takes a limited range of food scraps (i.e. no citrus, onions or bread).

Green Cone solar composter

- Cone shaped system 38cm at base and standing 110cm high
- Needs to be partially buried (up to a depth of 42cm) in a sunny patch of soil.
- Requires professional installation. Refer manufacturer's instructions and 'Dial before you dig'.
- Low maintenance –no turning/emptying.
- Takes a large range of food scraps (including citrus, onions and bread).

Step 2. Ask your residents if they would like to participate. You'll need 30% (or at least 3) residents in your building to join the program. Identify a Resident Champion to assist with promotion.

Step 3. Complete the application form and email it, along with resident signatures to environment@stonnington.vic.gov.au

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

1. The Owners' Corporation will receive an email from Council's partner, Compost Revolution, with a link for ordering the units. Once the Owners' Corporation pays for the bins (price includes the subsidy from Council), they will be delivered to your property.
2. The Owners' Corporation arranges installation, and sends Council a photo of the installed systems.
3. A Council Officer will contact the Resident Champion to arrange a visit and will bring an info pack, including instructions on how to manage the new composting system.
4. The Resident Champion is contacted by Council's contractor to organise a training session for residents.
5. All residents who complete the training are eligible for a free kitchen caddy.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/apartmentcomposting

Contact the Sustainable Environment Unit on 03 8290 1386

Email environment@stonnington.vic.gov.au