



## **STONNINGTON APARTMENT COMPOSTING PROGRAM**

### **FACTSHEET FOR OWNERS CORPORATIONS**

#### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Council's Apartment Composting Program provides an innovative solution to recycle food waste by supporting apartment dwellers to establish shared composting or worm farming systems in the grounds of their building, with Owners Corporation support.

Participating apartment buildings will be provided with up to 3 fully subsidised (**FREE**) composting or worm farming systems, a free onsite or online workshop and ongoing access to information and support from Council.

This document provides Owners Corporations with more information about the Apartment Composting Program to assist in addressing any queries or concerns they may have when considering supporting their apartment building to apply.

#### **WHY IS COUNCIL OFFERING THIS PROGRAM?**

In Stonnington, the average garbage bin contains 38% food waste by weight. This is food that is currently being sent to landfill, wasting money and resources. It also creates methane, a greenhouse gas around 30 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Keeping food waste out of landfill by composting it instead allows us to recycle food scraps into a useful, nutrient-rich material for improving soil, growing healthy gardens and supporting food production. Composting puts our waste to work!

Council wants to support all Stonnington residents to reduce the amount of food waste they send to landfill. However, due to the diversity of property types and sizes throughout the municipality, there is not a one-size-fits-all approach.

Council provides an opt-in kerbside food and green waste service for eligible properties at an additional cost. While this service is mostly suited to single-unit dwellings with their own gardens, some smaller apartment blocks are participating with shared bins paid for by their Owners Corporation. Apartments utilising a private waste collection service are not eligible for Council food and green waste bins at this time. There may also be constraints relating to bin storage or kerbside access that may prevent some apartment buildings from accessing the service. Council also provides a subsidy of up to 50% for traditional composting and worm farming systems to the wider Stonnington community via Compost Revolution, however, these systems are more suited to properties with access to private garden spaces. People living in apartments usually lack both indoor and outdoor space for their own systems.

Council has developed the Apartment Composting Program to assist Stonnington residents living in apartment buildings that are not eligible for kerbside food and green waste bins, or where there is a desire to use the compost/worm farm output to improve the health of the building's gardens. Stonnington's Apartment Composting Program provides an alternative way for apartment dwellers to recycle food waste by providing free composting units or worm farms for shared use, to be placed in the common outdoor area of the property.

## HOW TO APPLY

Interested Owners Corporation representatives are required to submit an application form. The application requires you to nominate a Resident Champion and to provide evidence of support from at least 30% of residents in the building. Owners Corporation meeting minutes showing evidence of the decision to participate also need to be submitted.

The Resident Champion's role involves letting others in the apartment building know about the Program, scheduling the training date, distributing caddies and contacting Council should any issues or questions arise. Please make sure your Resident Champion is willing to take on these responsibilities before nominating them!

Council has provided a template letter that the Resident Champion can use to seek support for the program from their neighbours, as well as a fact sheet for interested residents. The template letter, fact sheet and application form can be accessed via [stonnington.vic.gov.au/apartmentcomposting](http://stonnington.vic.gov.au/apartmentcomposting).

## WORKSHOPS

Council will fund an onsite or online workshop for each participating building. At this workshop, our partners at Wormlovers will show residents how their chosen system works and what types of food scraps are acceptable. Workshops are also a great chance to catch up with your neighbours and bond over composting! Wormlovers will liaise with your Resident Champion to organise a time for the workshop. Council will provide workshop invitation postcards for the Resident Champion to distribute to other residents of the apartment building.

## AVAILABLE COMPOSTING + WORM FARMING SYSTEMS

Council provides either Hungry Bin worm farms or Green Cone solar composters as part of the Apartment Composting Program. For more information visit [compostrevolution.com.au](http://compostrevolution.com.au).



### Hungry Bin worm farm

Hungry Bin worm farms are low maintenance, and the process for collecting the castings and liquid fertiliser is simple. They are low odour with no risk of rodents and disease and can be set up in basements, carparks, balconies and service areas.

The Hungry Bin should be located in a cool shaded place out of the sun and in an easy to access and convenient location. Each bin will take up approximately the same space as a wheelie bin.

One Hungry Bin worm farm can process up to 2kg of food waste per day. This should be enough for 1-3 actively participating apartments, depending on the amount of food waste being deposited.



### Green Cone solar composter

The Green Cone solar composter is essentially a maintenance-free system that can accept any type of food waste as well as pet waste. They are installed by digging them into a garden bed, where they release nutrients into the surrounding soil.

Green Cone solar composters can manage up to 4kg of food waste per day in summer, and up to 2kg in winter. This should be enough for 2-6 actively participating apartments, depending on the amount of food waste being deposited.

## **COSTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Council will cover the full cost of the chosen worm farm(s) (including 4,000 worms and bedding) and/or composting system(s) for each apartment building. Each apartment building can access up to 3 worm farms or composting systems for **FREE**. Any additional systems needed will have to be paid for at full price by the Owners Corporation.

Council will provide free kitchen caddies for all participating apartments. Council will also fund a workshop, ongoing support and signage. The Owners Corporation is responsible for costs relating to installation (if any) and ongoing maintenance of the composting system(s) or worm farm(s).

## **MORE INFORMATION**

For more information, please contact Council's Sustainable Environment team via [environment@stonnington.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@stonnington.vic.gov.au).