



# Why collect organics?

FACTSHEET 1

*Food and Garden Organics  
Best Practice Collection Manual*

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# Why Collect Organics?



**Move away from landfill**

# Why Collect Organics?

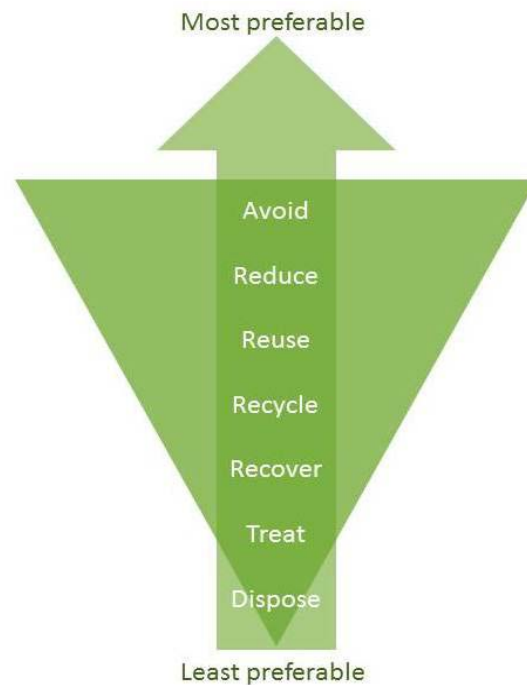
- Divert organics from landfill to:
  - Achieve superior environmental outcomes
  - Supply substitutes for dwindling virgin materials
  - Manufacture high quality products
  - Conserve essential plant nutrients
  - Achieve landfill diversion and recovery targets
  - Reduce climate change impacts
  - Attain renewable energy certificates
  - Reducing carbon price impacts for liable facilities
  - Reduce exposure to landfill levies
  - Reduce landfill disposal costs
  - Realise parks and gardens costs savings
  - Enhance local investment and employment
  - Meet community and voter expectations
  - Achieve long term behaviour change
  - Enhance social capital
  - Conserve existing landfill airspace

# Why Collect Organics?

- Organics represent the single largest fraction in a household garbage bin
- Up to 60% of the household waste we throw away each week is food and garden organics

# Benefits & Drivers

- The Waste Hierarchy



# Benefits & Drivers

- Economic
- Environmental
- Social



# Economic Benefits

- The carbon pricing mechanism
  - Carbon price payment avoidance by diverting waste from landfill
- Landfill costs and levies
  - Potential annual savings in landfill costs, landfill levy and carbon price
  - Renewable Energy Certificates, potential income by generating green energy
  - Enhanced investment and employment
- Achieving recovery targets

# Environmental Benefits

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Potential to save via kerbside collection and composting, as each tonne of garden and food organics or garden organics alone saves 250 and 320kg of CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Conservation of valuable resources
  - Beneficial reuse of organics, either for land management purposes or for energy generation



# Social Benefits

- Potential behaviour change
  - A 3<sup>rd</sup> bin for collection of food and garden organics can influence increased recycling and waste minimisation
- Social capital
  - An organics collection may help strengthen the local community and stimulate interest in environmental and sustainability initiatives

# Other Benefits

- Conserving landfill space
  - Reducing the amounts of waste sent to landfill will preserve its lifespan



NB: Information in this presentation is taken from the *Food and Garden Organics Best Practice Collection Manual* (2012) published by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities. The full document is available on the department's website [www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy/publications/organics-collection-manual](http://www.environment.gov.au/wastepolicy/publications/organics-collection-manual)