

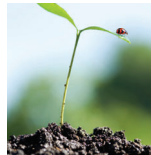
THE
FACTS
ABOUT

GARDEN AND FOOD ORGANICS

ORGANIC WASTE INCLUDES ANY **ANIMAL OR PLANT BASED MATERIAL** AND DEGRADABLE CARBON SUCH AS GARDEN ORGANICS, FOOD, TIMBER, PAPER AND CARDBOARD. WHEN SENT TO LANDFILL THE ORGANIC MATERIAL UNDERGOES ANAEROBIC DECOMPOSITION, GENERATING A **POTENT GREENHOUSE GAS**, METHANE.



The **second largest** source of methane in Australian landfills is food organics.



Gases produced in landfill from garden and food organics continue to be generated for at least **15 to 30 years**.



Mulched or composted garden and food organics are a valuable **nutrient dense material** that can be used to create and maintain a healthy garden.

56

56 litres of water is saved for every kilogram of food that is recovered.

Composting your garden and food organics and using it on your garden significantly increases the soil's **ability to retain water**.

25

Organic materials decompose in landfill to form greenhouse gases including methane, which has a global warming potential **25 times higher** than carbon dioxide.



About **two thirds** of all waste sent to landfill in Australia consists of food organics.



Temperatures generated by the composting process **destroy any pathogens and weeds** in the raw materials.

THE LEADER IN RESOURCE RECOVERY



THE
FACTS
ABOUT

GARDEN AND FOOD ORGANICS

seuz
environnement

sembcorp

SITA

THE LEADER IN RESOURCE RECOVERY

WHAT HAPPENS TO ORGANICS?

COLLECTION

Garden and food organics are collected from homes and businesses, and sent to an Organic Resource Recovery Facility.

RECYCLED ORGANICS

The final product is ready to be used in horticulture, agriculture, landscaping, garden centres, rehabilitation and other end markets, returning nutrients and essential minerals to the soil and improving plant growth.

DECONTAMINATION

Contaminants such as steel, plastic, glass, bricks and general waste are manually removed.

ORGANIC RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY

SITA Organics

SCREENING AND GRADING

Compost is screened into required sizes. Different grades of compost are required for different applications.

SHREDDING AND STACKING

The remaining organic material is shredded into smaller pieces and stacked in windrows. These are kept moist and turned regularly over a period of 16-20 weeks.

COMPOSTING

Micro-organisms break down the material and heat is generated, destroying weeds and pathogens. Temperatures can range between 50°C and 70°C. Laboratory testing ensures that compost complies with stringent standards.

**Organic waste falls into two categories for treatment, depending on whether or not it contains food waste. Garden Organics often uses Open Windrow Composting. In-Vessel composting is used for organic material that includes food.*

Sources: OzHarvest, Zero Waste, and The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities