



Shire of
Collie
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MEDIA RELEASE

28 November 2019

TO: Local media

Take the recycling challenge in December

The Shire of Collie is encouraging all residents to improve their recycling habits ahead of an audit during the week commencing 2 December 2019.

The recent audit of the Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bins and resulting improvement in behaviour has resulted in the Shire of Collie being recognised as having the lowest level of contamination of South West FOGO bins at just one per cent.

In contrast, an audit of the Shire's recycling in July found the contamination was as high as 58 per cent. This figure was one of the worst in the South West and the reason staff have carried out individual bin audits over the past five months.

"We're doing really well with our organics, it's now time to turn our attention to cleaning up our recycling habits," Shire President Sarah Stanley said.

"Clearly, the majority of residents want to do the right thing, there may be just some confusion around the correct way to dispose of various items.

A random sample of waste contained in each recycling truck will be audited to determine the level of contamination. If the level of contamination is more than 20 per cent by weight, then this will increase the amount that the community will pay Suez for the recyclables to be processed.

Top tips to get your recycling right:

1. Rinse items and place them loose in your bin.
2. Remove any lids.
3. Don't put any plastics bags / soft plastics in your recycling bin.
4. Don't put any clothes, furniture or electronic waste in your recycling bin.
5. Paper and cardboard should be spotless if they are to be recycled. Dirty items such as pizza boxes should be placed in your FOGO bin instead.

Shire CEO David Blurton said it was important to get waste right for a number of reasons.

“By getting our contamination rate right down, we not only increase the chance the waste will actually be recycled instead of ending up in landfill, but also help to keep our rates down by avoiding penalties.”

More information can be found on the watchyourwaste.wa.gov.au website with a complete A-Z of what belongs in each one of three bins.

For more information on recycling, contact the Shire’s Waste Officer, Christine Szostak on 9734 9000.

ENDS

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