Local Government Program

2026-27
Grant Funding Guidelines

In-home food waste system grants

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Government of South Australia
Green Industries SA

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Acknowledgement of Country

Green Industries SA acknowledges and respects the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connections, and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

We extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their nations in South Australia, and across Australia.

About Green Industries SA

Green Industries SA (GISA) is an enabler and driver of change, supporting the development of the circular economy through diverse collaborations which improve productivity, resilience, resource efficiency and the environment.

GISA works to transform how South Australians use and value resources, and the agency's objectives under the *Green Industries SA Act 2004* are to:

- promote waste management practices that, as far as possible, eliminate waste or its consignment to landfill
- promote innovation and business activity in the waste management, resource recovery and green industry sectors, recognising these areas present valuable opportunities to contribute to the state's economic growth.

Learn more about GISA.

South Australia's waste strategy

Initiatives funded through the *In-home Food Waste System* grant program supports implementation of *Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030* (the Strategy). The Strategy aims to accelerate South Australia's transition to a circular economy by reducing waste, improving resource recovery, and supporting a low-emissions, resource-efficient economy.

The In-home Food Waste System grant program assists the delivery of actions in the Strategy by supporting:

- rollout of area-wide, high-performing food waste collection systems, including within suitable multi-unit and higher density residential developments
- implementation of *SA Better Practice Guide: Sustainable Kerbside Services* in metro and regional areas
- provision of in-home infrastructure to households to support food waste diversion where kerbside organics systems are in place, including replacement containers
- delivery of information to council-serviced premises on the correct use of kerbside organics bins.

About the In-home Food Waste System grant program

Program overview

The *In-home Food Waste System Grants* assist councils to implement effective food waste recycling systems for residents and small businesses that use council-collected kerbside organics bins.

Food waste still makes up approximately 3 kilograms of a typical household general waste bin in metropolitan Adelaide. Disposing food to landfill represents the loss of a potentially valuable resource and contributes to landfill greenhouse gas emissions. All 19 metropolitan Adelaide councils, and 24 regional councils, have implemented green organics kerbside collections, accepting food waste and compostable materials alongside garden waste. Increasing household participation in diverting food waste into the organic bins would remove a significant volume of recoverable materials from landfill. The segregated organic materials can subsequently be processed into high-quality soil improvement

products (meeting AS 4454 standards) and applied to agricultural, viticultural and horticultural settings to grow more food and achieve high value circularity outcomes.

In 2009–10, GISA, formerly Zero Waste SA, supported 10 South Australian councils in an extensive household recycling food waste pilot to test outcomes associated with different systems and collection frequencies. The demonstrated higher levels of householder participation and improved food waste diversion associated with ventilated caddies alongside ready access to compostable bags at retail points has informed the best practice, high-performing systems supported through this program. Further information on the *Valuing our Food Waste* pilot outcomes, 2019 supermarket compostable bag trials and best-practice food waste systems can be found in the Application Support Guide.

Aim

The *In-home Food Waste System* grant program provides support to councils to implement effective, best practice food waste recycling systems for households and small businesses using kerbside organic collection services. In doing so, the grants aim to assist with meeting targets and actions in *Accelerating SA's transition to a circular economy: South Australia's waste strategy 2025–2030* and contribute to South Australia's net zero ambitions by reducing emissions from landfill.

Objective

Increasing householder participation in food waste recycling by providing complementary support initiatives, this grant program supports the purchase of in-home food waste systems to complement kerbside three-bin systems. The program seeks to not only support area-wide roll out of systems but allow for replacements, where required, for councils that may have implemented systems some time ago, or for residents moving into the area. The provision of in-home infrastructure is central to increasing the uptake of food waste recycling and subsequent diversion of organic material to compost and recognised end markets[1].

Outcome

The provision of in-home food waste collection infrastructure and education materials results in improved disposal behaviours, reduced contamination and increased diversion of organics away from landfill for processing into soil improvement products. The program prioritises high-value end uses for collected organics with recognised end markets.

Grant funding overview

The funding is open for all South Australian councils and subsidiaries under the *Local Government Act 1999* that provide a kerbside collected organics bins and accept food waste for processing into organic material to compost and recognised end markets. Applicants may seek matched funding toward the cost of purchasing in-home food waste collection systems, comprising kitchen caddy, initial supply of certified compostable bags and printed education material.

[1] When organic material is composted to AS 4454 and subsequently sold into beneficial and higher-use end markets in agricultural, viticultural, horticultural and urban amenity settings, to achieve the highest circular economy outcomes

The cost of assembly, delivery and provision of education material in or on the food waste container at the time of delivery, as well as an initial supply of Australian Standard (AS) 4736 or AS 5810[2] certified compostable liners with the provision of each container are eligible for funding.

Councils considering implementing alternative organic collection models under the *Sustainable Kerbside Services program* are encouraged to apply under this program (concurrently) to support delivery of suitable food waste systems to households and small businesses (if applicable).

The key elements of the funding offered towards the cost of the introduction, expansion or replacement of an in-home food waste system are:

- GISA will contribute up to 50% of cost of food waste containers and education material included with containers at the time of distribution, to a maximum of $10 per tenement per grant round.
- GISA will fully fund the cost of an initial supply of a roll of 75 compostable liner bags delivered to all households in a geographic area using **ventilated** food waste systems. Councils are encouraged to raise their residents' awareness of the wide availability of AS certified compostable bags through supermarkets, fruit and vegetable and other retailers.
- Eligible applicants may apply for funding under the *In-home Food Waste System Grants* program on a 'per serviced tenement' basis.

Conditions of funding

Eligibility criteria

This grant program is available to any council or local government subsidiary established under the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)* delivering a project within South Australia in accordance with these guidelines. GISA has the discretion to not consider incomplete applications.

Applicants must:

- be a council or local government subsidiary established under the *Local Government Act 1999 (SA)*
- be solvent and able to enter into a legally binding funding agreement with Green Industries SA
- comply with all relevant federal and state laws, regulations and any applicable EPA requirements.

Projects must:

- align with the *Grant funding overview*
- contribute to delivery of the program aim, objective and outcomes
- be new – activities not already commenced.

[2] AS 4736 Biodegradable plastics suitable for composting and other microbial treatment
AS 5810 Biodegradable plastics suitable for home composting

What will not be funded

In-home Food Waste System Grant funds are **not available** for projects that:

- are not supported by a source-segregated kerbside organics collection system taken to a licenced facility for processing into soil improvement products that meet Australian Standard 4454-2012 and supplied to recognised high-value end markets
- do not demonstrate strong potential for increased diversion of food waste from landfill
- rely upon education only, or where education components are not included on or in the container at the time of delivery to households.

Grant funds are **not available** for:

- any project that GISA deems to be inconsistent with the program aim, objectives, and outcomes
- expenditure related to applicant travel costs, operating costs, wages and salaries, or consultant fees
- broad community education material that is not included in or on the food waste container (such as bus shelter advertising, billboard advertising, newsletters etc.).

Funding availability

Grants of **up to $10 per serviced tenement** are available for the cost of food waste containers and education material included with containers at the time of distribution.

Priority will be given to applications that have a budget already allocated and commit to area-wide roll-out of ventilated food waste systems.

GISA may also fully fund the initial supply of a roll of 75 certified compostable liner bags delivered with the ventilated containers and education materials mentioned above.

All applicants must:

- Contribute at least 50% of total project costs from sources other than the South Australian and Australian governments and not including ‘in-kind’ (non-financial) payments.
- Have projects completed within 2 years of the grant being offered and accepted. Projects which have a completion date before 30 June 2028 will be given priority.

Applicants unsure about the eligibility of the proposed project should, contact Justin Lang, Manager Local Government & Infrastructure at justin.lang@sa.gov.au or on 0419 948 931 to discuss the matter further.

Funding Requirements

- Councils must enter into a signed grant agreement with GISA in which the council commits to introducing or expanding in-home food waste system.
- Where in-home food waste systems are proposed, these must be used in conjunction with a kerbside green organics service collected at no less than a fortnightly basis.
- Segregated organic must be processed via a commercial composting operation and used to create soil improvement products with recognised high-value end markets. Processing must occur at an appropriately licensed EPA composting facility, managed according to EPA and other planning requirements

- Segregated organics material must be processed into soil improvement products that meet Australian Standard 4454-2012 (where applicable) and supplied to third parties in recognised higher-use end markets in agricultural, viticultural, horticultural and urban amenity settings, to achieve the highest circular economy outcomes for the duration of the grant agreement.
- The applicant must support and maintain an approved service with regular, ongoing education and communications using GISA-approved statewide branding (e.g. *Which Bin*) for a minimum period of 3 years to provide advice on how to use the system, what not to place in the organics bin and accessing Australian Standard certified compostable liners.
- All communication and educational materials used for in-home food waste systems must recognise the state government and use GISA-approved branding (e.g. *Which Bin*) and be reviewed by GISA before publication. GISA will assist to develop communication materials. Further information on GISA-approved branded education resources is included in the *Application Support Guide*.
- Applicants must submit a satisfactory performance report in accordance with grant agreement terms and conditions, including a final report 12 months after the system has been rolled out or when all grant funding has been provided. The report requires information on material processing site and end markets. Failure to provide the performance report may deem grantees ineligible for further GISA grants.

Performance-based reporting, audits and financial support

Where an applicant is provided a total grant amount over $200,000 (excluding GST) across one or more rounds under this program (formerly the Kerbside Food Waste System Grants) for the introduction or expansion of a food waste system, a kerbside audit must be undertaken within 12 months of the service being introduced, with costs met by council.

Audits are to be undertaken in alignment with the new South Australia's kerbside waste audit guidelines, which are currently in development and anticipated to be available in early 2027. Applicants are to consult with GISA should the proposed methodology for conducting kerbside waste and recycling audits differ from the new guidelines.

Applicants receiving less than $200,000 (excluding GST) in grant funding are encouraged though not required to carry out audits but are required to submit simplified reports based on monthly load weight data for waste collected in kerbside bins to GISA.

Submitting your application

All applications must:

- use the relevant application form, available on the GISA website
- be submitted with a declaration signed by an appropriately authorised representative from the applicant organisation such as the chief executive, executive officer, chairperson, or equivalent
- be no more than 20 pages, and no more than 10MB in size (including attachments)
- be submitted electronically (MS Word file or Adobe pdf) to han.tran@sa.gov.au by **5pm 4 December 2025**, with the subject heading 'In-home Kerbside Food Waste System Grants 2026-27 – application – [applicant name]'.

All applications will be acknowledged as 'received' via return email within 2 business days of the submission date. If an application is sent via email and not acknowledged within that timeframe, please contact Han Tran on 0474 193 376.

Late applications will not be assessed. GISA has ultimate discretion in relation to management of late applications.

Further information

For further information, or to discuss your application and eligibility, contact Justin Lang, Manager Loval Government & Infrastructure at justin.lang@sa.gov.au or on 0419 948 931.

Assessment process

Application assessment

- Applications will be reviewed by GISA staff to confirm eligibility against the eligibility criteria outlined in these guidelines. GISA has ultimate discretion in eligibility assessment.
- All eligible applications will be assessed by an evaluation panel convened by GISA against the assessment criteria (below). The evaluation panel will assess applications based on the information provided in the application form and supporting documentation provided by the applicant with their application. The evaluation panel may be comprised of GISA staff and/or external specialists at GISA's discretion. All panel members will uphold confidentiality and declare conflict of interest which will be managed by GISA's evaluation Chairperson.
- If required, additional written information may be requested from the applicant to assist with the assessment. Failure to provide information requested by GISA in a timely manner may terminate the assessment process and the application may be deemed ineligible for funding.
- GISA may conduct due diligence checks on project partners named in the application as required for project delivery. The applicant must ensure that project partners agree to

cooperate with this requirement and provide information at GISA's request.

- GISA reserves the right not to award funding to applicants where the due diligence risk (including that of project partners) is unsatisfactory or is not able to be effectively managed.
- GISA has the ultimate discretion in relation to its funding decision and applicants should note that irrespective of eligibility and merit, there is no guarantee that an offer of funding will be made.
- The evaluation panel will recommend projects to be funded and funding amounts to the appropriate GISA delegate for decision, which considers the evaluation outcomes and GISA's budget availability.
- The duration of the assessment process may vary depending on the nature of applications and GISA staff availability. As a guide, the duration between the submission of the application and any additional supporting information requested by GISA (if applicable) and the decision regarding funding approval should take no longer than 6 weeks.
- Initial notification of the success of the application will be provided once the assessment process is complete. Funding agreements containing terms, conditions and payment milestones swill be prepared and provided following the initial notification.

Assessment criteria

Applications must meet all Eligibility criteria (see previous section) before an assessment will be made. Applications that do not meet all eligibility criteria will not progress to assessment.

Applications that meet all eligibility criteria will be assessed against the criteria below, based on the satisfaction of GISA and the evaluation panel:

- project uses a high performing system (area-wide lined and ventilated containers) or systems that have been successfully demonstrated, including ventilated caddies and Australian Standard certified compostable liners
- applicant has obtained the appropriate organisational approval, or provided sufficient information on when the approval outcome will be obtained, to implement, expand or reinvigorate kerbside food organics collection systems, and has adequate funds set aside in the budget
- project has a clear timetable for rollout, and an experienced project manager is assigned to manage project delivery
- application includes information on the types of communication material that will be provided, including use of GISA-approved branding (e.g. *Which Bin*); and includes information on how communication will be regular and ongoing, with sufficient funds being allocated in the budget proposal for this activity

- quotes have been provided as part of the application for materials purchased
- application includes the expected diversion potential of the proposed system
- correct number of tenements provided, as per ABS data/latest rates data
- segregated organic material collected to be processed at an appropriately licensed EPA composting facility, composted into soil improvement products that meet Australian Standard 4454-2012 and supplied to recognised higher beneficial use end markets
- adequate risk identification and risk management for the project
- if applicable, relevant and complementary link to concurrent / related grants or projects.

Risk management

Applicants are required to undertake and include a risk assessment of the key risks associated with the proposed project and are responsible for project risk management. Guidance is provided in the Application Support Guide, available on the program webpage.

Access to and rights to intellectual property

Applicants and their project partners (if applicable) must be able to demonstrate they have access to any intellectual property necessary to carry out the project.

Privacy and commercial-in-confidence considerations

All applications will be treated as commercial-in-confidence. GISA reserves the right to include third party evaluations as part of the assessment process and has the ultimate discretion in relation to publicity for successful applications. Applicants are not permitted to publicise their projects without prior written approval of GISA.

Insurance

The applicant must hold and maintain Public Liability insurance and Professional Indemnity insurance (or equivalent) to the value of at least $1 million per claim for the duration of the proposed project.

Councils covered under the Mutual Liability Scheme are encouraged to ensure all sub-contractor(s) or service provider(s) engaged for project delivery hold and maintain both Public Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance valued at a minimum of $1 million per claim for the duration of the proposed project.

Approvals required

All required approvals, such as a council resolution, are to be provided within 3 months of receiving the initial notification or within 3 months of signing of the grant agreement, as determined in writing between successful applicants and GISA.

Grant agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant agreement with GISA. This agreement will set out the terms of the grant, conditions, payment schedules, project timing, key performance indicators, reporting requirements and other matters.

A copy of the standard grant agreement can be provided on request.

Reporting

GISA requires successful applicants to provide regular reporting on the project's progress and outcomes. The reporting will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Reporting requirements and payment milestones will be included in grant offers and agreements.

Publicity, promotion and case studies

Successful applicants are not permitted to publicise projects without gaining prior written approval from GISA.

GISA has ultimate discretion about publicity of funding and the state government (GISA) must be acknowledged in all media and promotional activities relating to successful projects. Terms and conditions regarding publicity are included in grant agreements.

All successful applicants must, if requested, supply a high-resolution logo, and authorise its use on the GISA website, and agree to be listed as a program participant on GISA's 'projects funded' webpage.

The value of grants will also be listed against the successful applicant's name on the GISA website, with a short description of the funded project.

Unsuccessful applications

Applicants that have been unsuccessful for receiving grant funding will be notified in writing, including a summary of the reasons why the application was not successful and guidance on how any queries may be raised.

Please contact the Program Manager for further information.