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## **SA LEADS WITH MAJOR KITCHEN WASTE RECYCLING PILOT**

Sixteen thousand South Australians are set to participate in the most comprehensive pilot of household kitchen waste recycling yet to be undertaken in Australia.

Minister for Environment and Conservation Gail Gago today announced 10 councils will be involved in a six-month pilot to introduce the combined kerbside collection of food waste with garden organics.

“South Australia’s participating councils can be proud of their leadership in joining the most comprehensive pilot of its type to be seen across our nation, further cementing our State’s credentials in waste management,” says Minister Gago.

“The potential that can be achieved as a result of this pilot is significant, with a view to encouraging councils to expand the roll out of food waste recycling to even more SA households, minimising dumping to landfill and the production of damaging greenhouse gases.

“The SA Government has committed \$800,000 to the pilot that will assess the best steps to be taken to introduce a cost-effective service with the greatest participation and satisfaction from householders, whilst minimising contamination.

“Householders participating in the pilot will be given a bench-top container in which food waste such as peelings, vegetables and meat scraps are placed before being emptied into the garden organics bin for kerbside collection and specific processing.

“Instead of sending this food waste to landfill where it decomposes and creates methane, a potent greenhouse gas, it can be turned into valuable compost which can enrich our soils.

“This pilot is a major step towards achieving our State’s target to divert 75% of waste from household waste bins collected at the kerbside by 2010.

“Around 50% of what is left in the waste bin is food or compostable material, and removing this waste could result in a total diversion rate of about 76%.

“I am delighted at the high level of interest in the pilot and congratulate these councils for their environmental leadership and responsiveness to the community’s interest in recycling as much as possible.

“The scale and diversity of this pilot has not been undertaken elsewhere in Australia,” says Minister Gago.

Across the 10 councils there is a broad cross section of householder demographics and dwelling types – both single and multi-unit – represented which will allow councils to test as many elements as possible related to the collection.

Different designs of bench-top containers are being tested together with, or without, using compostable liner bags.

Three South Australian composting companies will process the waste – Jeffries Group, Peats Soils and Van Schaik.

At the completion of the pilot, there is potential for participating councils to offer the new service to their broader communities on an ongoing basis.

Each council will be working closely with their respective communities to ensure systems are adequately tested.

Extensive research will underpin the pilot – including monitoring diversion rates, auditing participation and contamination, and surveying householders' satisfaction.

The councils and estimated number of households participating in the pilot are as follows:

***Metropolitan councils***

Adelaide City Council	1,200
City of Campbelltown*	1,500
City of Charles Sturt*	2,000
City of Mitcham	1,000
City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters*	1,000
City of West Torrens	2,000

***Regional councils***

City of Whyalla	2,000
Wattle Range Council*	3,900
Light Regional Council	900
DC of Mallala*	800
<b>Total number of households</b>	<b>16,300</b>

\*Have indicated interest in combining the food waste pilot with the fortnightly collection of rubbish.

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