

Lilydale Food Waste to Energy

Community Update | October 2024

The foundations are laid

Construction of the new food waste to energy facility at Lilydale is off to a great start. We've completed most of the earthmoving work for now and laid the concrete foundations. We're now building the digester tanks that will process food waste. We encourage you to take a walk or ride your bike along the Yarra Rail Trail and watch the facility emerge from the ground up.



**Diverting organic
waste from landfill**



**Reducing greenhouse
gas pollution**



**Producing
renewable energy**

We've planted 1,600 new trees!

In August, we planted 1,600 indigenous trees along the west side of the Yarra Rail Trail.

We were helped by students from Mount Lilydale Mercy College and staff from Yarra Ranges Council.

The plants and trees were sourced from the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Indigenous Plant Nursery, that specialises in plants specific to the local area. The nursery is volunteer-run and proceeds go towards the conservation of the critically endangered Victorian bird emblem, the Helmeted Honeyeater.

We'll be back to plant more shrubs and understory in the next few years, once the trees are established. This will screen the facility, provide shade for trail users in summer, enrich the local environment and support wildlife in the area.



What is 'food waste to energy' and how does it differ from other waste to energy plants?

Food waste to energy facilities turn commercial food waste into renewable energy. They use a natural process called 'anaerobic digestion', which is similar to the way a human body breaks down food – we don't use incineration or gasifiers to process the waste.

This is our second food waste to energy facility, our first has been successfully operating in Wollert since 2017. Since then, the award-winning Wollert facility has processed 178,000 tonnes of food waste and produced approximately 35,000 MWh renewable electricity.



Watch a short one-minute video about how food waste to energy facilities work



Updates from our construction team

A new crossing point

We've recently installed a new crossing point on the Yarra Rail Trail. The new fence makes it safer for cyclists and pedestrians by prompting them to check both directions before crossing the newly established private access road. Trucks will use the road to access the facility while it's being constructed and to deliver food waste afterwards.

The digester tanks are going up.

Most of the excavation work is done, and the concrete foundations are poured, so there'll be less truck activity in Lilydale.

Construction of the digester tanks started in August and is progressing well.

Like a human stomach, the sealed digester tanks are where food waste will be broken down, generating and safely storing a mixture of gases, known as 'biogas'.

The biogas is what we use to create renewable electricity to power our facilities and feed excess energy back into the grid.

A new traffic intersection on Maroondah Highway

We're continuing to work on the design for new traffic lights to be installed at the Maroondah Highway and Ingram Road intersection.

The new intersection will allow vehicles to pass safely along a new private access road. Boral Coldstream Quarry trucks will also use the lights, making it safer for everyone when trucks are turning right onto Maroondah Highway, towards Lilydale.

Coldstream locals – including those attending the primary school and sports oval next door – will also benefit from the new traffic lights. Turning from Ingram Road onto Maroondah Highway will be safer.

We'll do our best to keep you moving and minimise delays while we're working at the intersection. We'll provide more information and signage before these works begin to minimise disruption to locals and visitors passing through the area.



Image: map and site layout of the food waste to energy facility

More information

 yvw.com.au/lilydaleWTE

@ lilydaleWTE@yvw.com.au

 03 9872 1564

 **TTY Voice Calls** 13 36 77

 **Speak and Listen** 1300 555 727

For free language assistance

العربية 1300 914 361

廣東話 1300 921 362

Ελληνικά 1300 931 364

普通话 1300 927 363

For all other languages call
our interpreter service on
03 9046 4173



Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra Valley Water proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners/
Custodians of the land and water on which we rely and operate.

We pay our deepest respects to their Elders past, present and
emerging. We acknowledge the continued cultural, social and
spiritual connections that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
peoples have with the lands and waterways, and recognise and
value their care and protection for thousands of generations.