

# Lilydale Food Waste to Energy

Community Update | November 2025

## We're ready to operate!

We're excited to share that our Lilydale food waste to energy facility is ready to accept waste after years of planning, design and construction. This means less food waste to landfill. Instead, it will be converted into renewable electricity to help power our sites and reduce Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions.

Over the coming year, we'll gradually ramp up operations. Our partner company, ReWaste, will manage the day-to-day running, making sure everything works safely and smoothly.

In this update, we'll let you know what to expect as our new facility becomes fully operational and answer some frequently asked questions.



**Diverting organic  
waste from landfill**



**Reducing greenhouse  
gas pollution**



**Producing  
renewable electricity**

### When fully operational the plant will:



Power itself and the neighbouring sewage treatment plant, and feed excess renewable electricity into the grid.



Process about 55,000 tonnes of food waste every year.



Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 24,700 CO<sub>2</sub>-eq tonnes every year – the equivalent of taking 25,300 cars off the road.



Generate 39,000 kilowatt hours of renewable electricity per day – that's around 35% of Yarra Valley Water's electricity needs or enough to power the equivalent of more than 2,200 Victorian homes.



# Taking the first steps – ‘seeding’ the facility

Inside the digester tanks, bacteria break down the food waste we receive and produce a mixture of gases known as ‘biogas’. The biogas fuels an engine which generates renewable electricity.

To start this natural biogas process, we need to ‘seed’ the facility with a healthy, active community of micro-organisms to kickstart a process known as ‘anaerobic digestion’.

We’ll carefully nurture the seeding material, sourced from our existing food waste to energy facility in Wollert. Just as our stomachs need regular meals, the digesters need a consistent, balanced mix of food waste to function efficiently.

The seeding and settling process will take a few weeks. Once established, we’ll gradually increase the facility’s operation to full capacity over the course of about a year.

The site will start producing renewable electricity later this summer, increasing the amount it produces as we take more waste.



## Frequently asked questions

### What type of waste do you accept?

We accept commercial food waste such as off-cuts from food processing, abattoir waste and food that is past its use-by date and not suitable for human consumption. We can also accept liquid waste, including by-products from beverage manufacturing or the dairy industry.

Our Lilydale facility also offers de-packaging services, which means we can remove packaging from waste food products, allowing us to recover even more food waste than our first facility in Wollert.

Commercial businesses can visit [rewaste.com.au](https://www.rewaste.com.au) to find out more.

### Can you process household or food and garden organic (FOGO) bin waste?

Our micro-organisms are picky eaters! To keep them happy and producing lots of lovely biogas, our digesters need a consistent and carefully balanced diet. We work with commercial food waste to have control over what goes in and keep the micro-organisms healthy.

Unfortunately, that means we can’t accept FOGO bin waste. Your household green waste can be quite a mix, which our current process isn’t designed for.

Council residential waste services are not related to our commercial facility. For more information about Yarra Ranges Council’s FOGO program visit [yarraranges.vic.gov.au/FOGO](https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/FOGO)

# Planning a new intersection

We've built a new access road north of our site, ready to connect to a future traffic-light intersection at Maroondah Highway and Ingram Road.

We're working closely with the Department of Transport and Planning on new requirements to build this new access point to our site. This means design, planning and construction will take about 4 years to complete.

## Managing deliveries for local businesses

In the meantime, deliveries will start to arrive via Lilydale → Anderson Street → Nelson Road with minimal impact on traffic (adding less than 1% traffic during peak times).

In the medium-term, trucks will use the Coldstream Quarry entry, reducing traffic through Lilydale.

We're committed to getting the new intersection built as quickly as possible and with minimal disruption.

We'll keep you updated on progress at [yvw.com.au/lilydaleWTE](http://yvw.com.au/lilydaleWTE)



## What happens to the by-product?

About 30% of the original food waste remains as a by-product called digestate. Digestate is nutrient rich and has potential uses in agriculture.

Currently, digestate is only available for commercial use and we're exploring applications for local agribusinesses in the Yarra Valley area. Reusing digestate makes the most of the waste we process, contributing to Victoria's circular economy.

## Will it smell?

The facility has been designed to prevent odour emissions. It's highly unlikely you'll notice odour. Waste is stored and processed inside sealed tanks and our 24/7 odour monitoring sensors allow us to detect and investigate any unusual odours promptly.

## Why is a provider of water and sewerage services involved in energy?

Providing safe, clean drinking water and managing sewerage services for more than two million Victorians uses a lot of energy. Our powerful pumps move water and wastewater through approximately 22,000 kilometres of pipes and treatment processes are power-intensive.

Investing in facilities like this enables us to generate renewable electricity to power the facility itself and our Lilydale Sewage Treatment Plant. In the future, any extra electricity we generate will go back into the grid, much like a household solar system.

# Working with local farmers and wineries

We're actively engaging with commercial food producers in the Yarra Valley to source their organic waste as our feedstock.

Sourcing waste locally is a win-win for the community: producers can dispose of their waste cost-effectively and sustainably, and we can use this valuable feedstock to generate renewable electricity. Being close to our suppliers also reduces waste transport costs and environmental impact.

If your business is interested in providing us with commercial food waste, please visit [rewaste.com.au](http://rewaste.com.au)

## More information

If you'd like more information visit [yvw.com.au/lilydaleWTE](http://yvw.com.au/lilydaleWTE) or contact us at [lilydaleWTE@yvw.com.au](mailto:lilydaleWTE@yvw.com.au)

### Contact us

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#### 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.