The food and garden waste service has kicked off to a great start this year with residents in the Mid-Western Region now recycling their organic waste.

Mid-Western Regional Council is one of three councils in Central West NSW who introduced organics recycling this year as part of a regional collaboration to turn organic waste into compost, instead of landfill.

Mid-Western Regional, Dubbo Regional and Narromine Shire Councils all introduced the Food and Garden Waste bin in July with some 24,000 residents now recycling their organic waste with the service.

More than 1400 tonnes of organic waste has been collected since the service was introduced four months ago. Council has been delighted by community uptake of the new bin, and particularly pleased with low contamination rates of the waste service.

Recent reports to Council show that contamination in the organics bin has been low since the service started, with only 2.3 percent recorded in its first month of operation. Three months into the service and this figure has dropped to approximately 1 percent.

Once received by the Dubbo Regional Organics Processing Plant, organic waste is hand-sorted to remove any plastic contamination. The waste is then shredded, composted, matured and tested to meet Australian Standards. The final product is screened and wind sifted to complete the process.

Residents are reminded to keep plastics out of the organics bin, particularly food packaging or other caddy liners. Never use other liners, even if they say ‘degradable’ or ‘biodegradable’, these products still contain plastic and won’t break down in the composting process.

As part of the waste service, Council supplies a kitchen caddy and compostable liners to help residents dispose of their food waste more easily. The Council-provided liners are made from cornstarch and are Certified Compostable.

Council provides the compostable liners for free. Compost will be available to purchase in early 2019. Visit Council’s website for more details.

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