



Be ACCUrate Source separated organic waste method webinar – questions and answers

This document contains the questions and answers provided during the Be ACCUrate webinar held on 11 November 2025. You can access a [recording of the presentations from this webinar](#)¹ on our YouTube channel.

The information provided in this document was accurate at the time of the webinar and is subject to change.

Q1: Are many applicants choosing to use method 2?

The method provides three sub-methods to quantify waste mix type in eligible organic material:

- Sub-method 1 specifically applies to charity diversion activities, for which food is the only waste mix type that may be source separated
- Sub-method 2 applies to either new or expansion waste diversion activities
- Sub-method 3 applies to aggregated waste diversion activities.

Sub-method 2 differs from sub-methods 1 and 3 in that it allows the processing of material at one or multiple facilities. This may be relevant for proponents implementing waste diversion activities over a large area that seek to process waste at the facility closest to the point of separation.

As at 18 December 2025, there are 24 projects registered under the method. Approximately 10 of these projects involve new and expansion activities (i.e. sub-method 2).

Q2: How do I find out if my local council is running a project?

Please refer to the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) public register which is a list of all the current registered projects: [ACCU project and contract register](#)²

You will be able to search the project name, proponent name and location data to identify whether a project is currently being run by your local council.

Q3: In an instance where you start a SSOW project activity in one location and register the project, do you need to re-register further projects if you then add this SSOW project activity in new locations? Or would this just constitute a notifiable event and you can have it all under the umbrella of one project?

A SSOW project must provide the following information at registration:

- At least one location identifying the source of the organic waste.
- The location of at least one treatment facility, and at least one treatment type to be used at this facility.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQaHXAGL6VA>

² <https://cer.gov.au/markets/reports-and-data/accu-project-and-contract-register>



However, during the crediting period, the project can also add new waste sources or further treatment locations, or it can change or add project activities. The following sections of the method set out the legislative requirements for notifying us of relevant changes:

- If a potential new, expansion or aggregated waste diversion activity is implemented, the CER must be notified within 14 days of the implementation of the activity.
- If the proponent switches treatment facilities, the CER must be notified within 14 days of the switch.
- If the proponent is no longer able to include a particular sub activity in an aggregated waste diversion activity, the CER must be notified within 30 days of making the decision to no longer include the sub activity.

All other SSOW method requirements still apply, including evidence that the waste was sent to landfill for at least 24 months prior to being used in the project.

Q4: Is there an expectation that this method will be recommended to be remade? What is the timeline on this decision? (Related question: Are there plans to have a new SSOW legislative instrument after the 31/3/26?)

As Commonwealth legislative instruments, all methods automatically expire ten years after their implementation. This scheduled expiry prevents outdated regulations from remaining in effect indefinitely and promotes regular review and updates. Additionally, it ensures that legislation aligns with contemporary societal, economic, and legal developments.

Following the Assistant Minister for Energy and Climate Change's request for advice on remaking four methods, including the Source Separated Organic Waste method 2016,³ the Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC) published a sunsetting review report.⁴ This report recommends that a proponent should investigate the possibility of including the SSOW streams under a new Alternative Waste Treatment method.

Q6: Regarding the NSW mandate for MSW FOGO, the start date is 2030. Can you confirm whether project applications submitted now would be approved? And if a project is approved, would ACCUs be awarded for 7 years or only between 2026 and 2030?

The *Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment (FOGO Recycling) Act 2025* requires all local councils to offer food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection to households by 1 July 2030. Businesses such as supermarkets, cafes, and hospitals must start implementing FOGO from July 2026, with increasing obligations through to 2030 to significantly reduce landfill waste by separating food and garden scraps.

The regulatory additional requirement under ACCU Scheme must be demonstrated at registration. As the management of FOGO by local councils is not required until 2030, projects implementing these activities in advance of legislative requirements under the *Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment (FOGO*

³ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-reduction/accu-scheme/methods/source-separated-organic-waste>

⁴ <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/source-separated-organic-waste-method-2016-sunsetting-review-report-final-report.pdf>



Recycling) Act 2025 can be eligible for registration. Following registration, these projects will be eligible for ACCUs for the entire crediting period.

Q7: The level of detail required for emissions calculations is far greater for method 2. Method 1 seems to be limited to the tonnes of waste sent to facility and waste rejected.

Sub-methods in the method refer to the calculation of the quantity of a waste mix type of eligible material. There are three sub-methods.

Sub-method 1 is restricted to charity diversion activities only, with food being the only waste type and no treatment facility. As such, method calculations are relatively simple.

Sub-method 2 applies to new waste diversion activities or expansion waste diversion activities, and allows processing of multiple waste types, and at multiple facilities. This is particularly relevant for proponents implementing waste diversion activities over a large area and seeks to process waste at the facility closest to the point of separation. Project involving multiple types of waste mixes within the eligible organic material must perform calculations separately for each type of waste mix. Additionally, where more than one facility is used to process waste, calculations must also be repeated for each facility.

Q8: When calculating abatement, if the project activity does not fall into one of the specific activities outlined in the method, can you use the NGER default waste mix types, or would you almost certainly have to do a waste audit?

Section 13 sets out specific types of waste diversion activities that are expected to be the most frequently implemented under the method. These include commercial food waste, municipal food waste, municipal garden and park waste, and municipal food and garden and park waste activities. Definitions for each type of source separation activity are provided in subsections 13(2) to 13(5). These common activities are identified to provide default waste composition values, set out in section 33.

If a source separation activity does not fall within these common categories, and is not a charity diversion activity, then a waste audit under section 61 must be undertaken to determine waste composition. For example, if the activity involves the diversion of an eligible waste mix type other than food or garden and park from landfill – such as textiles, wood and wood waste, sludge, nappies, rubber or leather – a waste audit is required to determine waste composition.