

SA coffee fertiliser a true-brew winner

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Foodbank's Greg Pattinson, Neutrog Australia's Angus Irwin and OTR's Joann Skene. Picture: Mark Brake

NEUTROG Australia has long been known for thinking outside the square when it comes to producing garden fertilisers.

But the Kanmantoobased business has taken things up a notch with the creation of its latest product. The company has launched its Human Beans – Grounds For Good project, an environmental initiative to direct coffee waste away from becoming landfill by converting it to fertiliser.

Coffee grounds are collected from development partner OTR's stores across South Australia that will, in return, sell the fertiliser to help spread the word.

Proceeds from sales will also be donated in part to Foodbank SA to help expand its services to families in need.

Neutrog Australia managing director Angus Irwin said the project would help create a sustainable alternative for a product that many could not go without.

According to a recent Planet Ark report, Australians consume about six billion coffees a year, with the waste created by our favourite hot beverages being added into landfill almost immediately.

"We know that the process of getting rid of coffee waste can attract significant costs for retailers which could realistically instead be donated to worthy organisations such as Foodbank to help the thousands of Australians who are struggling to provide a meal for their family every day," Mr Irwin said.

"Foodbank already regularly visits OTRs in South Australia to collect unused foods and items to donate to its clients, so what we intend to do is ask these retailers to retain their coffee grounds, pop them into a biobag and allow Foodbank to collect the stock to take back to its depot, where it will be picked up by Neutrog.

"Neutrog will then transport the waste to our facility in Kanmantoo, where it will be mixed with other ingredients such as chicken poo and compost it to stabilise the nutrients.

"Once this process is complete, the product will be converted into pellets and packaged."

Mr Irwin said Neutrog would look to increase its partnerships with more retailers following a trial period ending on November 30.