



RECYCLE RIGHT FOR NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

During this year's **National Recycling Week**, **Planet Ark** is encouraging people to Recycle Right to save water, to conserve resources, to reduce contamination and to combat climate change by reducing carbon emissions.

Recycling is one thing that all Australians can do to help address climate change. The more we recycle, the greater the environmental benefit as we are not only minimising the output of carbon dioxide - which is the biggest contributor to climate change, but we're also conserving valuable resources and saving vast amounts of water and energy.

More than 90% of Australians use household kerbside collections to recycle the bottles, cans, jars and paper they use at home. This is a great start, however to Recycle Right we need to make sure we're putting the right things into our home recycling bins. When we put the wrong items in a household recycling bin, we contaminate the entire contents of the bin and reduce the effectiveness of the whole recycling process. For example; a single plastic bag can shut down an entire material recovery facility if it gets caught in its machinery; and just 5 grams of drink ware glass or Pyrex in a recycling bin can contaminate a tonne of bottle and jar glass because it melts at a different temperature.

"Recycling is one of the most important things that we can do to address climate change," says **Planet Ark** spokesperson, Rebecca Gilling. "When we Recycle Right we minimise contamination, we conserve resources and we reduce our impact on the environment".

Recycling also extends well beyond our home recycling bins. Community-based and alternative recycling programs offer an innovative and fun way to get rid of unwanted items, get hold of new things, and reduce our impact on the environment. Swap parties - which involve the exchange of anything from clothes, to toys, books and electrical equipment - are a great example of community recycling in action for a measurable environmental benefit. For example; getting a single cotton dress from a swap party rather than buying it at a shop, saves around 22,000 litres of water.

Planet Ark is encouraging everyone to use **National Recycling Week** as an opportunity to Recycle Right whether it's putting the right things into your home recycling bin, swapping clothes or recycling printer cartridges. To download a copy of **Planet Ark's How To host A Swap Party Guide** or for more information on what you can and can't recycle in your local area or on **National Recycling Week** go to **RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org** or call the **National Recycling Hotline** on **1300 733 712**.

National Recycling Week runs from November 10th - 16th 2008.

National Recycling Week is kindly supported by Major Sponsor **Visy** and Associate Sponsors **The Aluminium Can Group**, **Bartercard**, **'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark'** & Publishers **National Environment Bureau**.

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