



Media Release

For immediate release

Fancy an office fling? Workplaces across Australia join in the fun

Across Australia, office filing cabinets, drawers and cupboards are overflowing with redundant paper files and documents gathering dust. This National Recycling Week (13 – 19 November) Planet Ark is urging workplaces to put aside some time to collect used paper for recycling by holding a Friday File Fling on Friday 17 November.

The Friday File Fling is a fun and easy way to de-clutter your office, and a great opportunity to send good quality office paper back into circulation, so it can be made into other paper products such as toilet tissue, paper towel and new office paper.

Paper is the largest contributor to solid waste generated by Australian offices. Currently office paper has a recycling rate of 68%, yet less than 18% of new office paper includes recycled content.

A simple way workplaces can improve their recycling and reduce their overall impact on the environment is to introduce dedicated paper and cardboard recycling bins in strategic locations around the office. Planet Ark research found that the office paper recycling rate increased from 28% when there was a single recycling bin in the office to 94% when recycling trays were placed on every deskⁱ.

Ryan Collins, Planet Ark's Recycling Programs Manager, says the Friday File Fling is also a great opportunity to raise staff awareness of recycling.

"Holding a Friday File Fling is a chance for workplaces to do some serious de-cluttering, but also think about their other recycling processes too. Collecting waste paper during and after the Fling is just one way businesses can be more sustainable through recycling. They can also register for the 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' and the MobileMuster programs to recycle used printer cartridges and mobile phones, and visit our website www.businessrecycling.com.au, which is full of recycling ideas for all sorts of business-related waste," Collins said.

The theme of this year's National Recycling Week, **What Goes Around: Why Buying Recycled Matters**ⁱⁱ, highlights why recycling is only part of the battle. To help win the War on Waste consumers and businesses need to properly close the recycling loop by purchasing products that contain recycled content.

"Recycling matters now more than ever, but we really need to purchase products made from our recycling. Planet Ark 100% Australian Recycled Paper is a good example of a closed loop product because it's made from 100% recycled office paper. It's also Australian made, FSC certified, carbon neutral and every bit as good as non-recycled paper. Plus for every ream of Planet Ark 100% Australian Recycled Paper purchased, nearly three kgs of waste paper is diverted from landfillⁱⁱⁱ," Collins said.

To encourage workplaces to use recycled products Planet Ark is giving 20 workplaces the chance to win five cartons of Planet Ark 100% Australian Recycled Paper to businesses who register for the Friday File Fling and submit their results to Planet Ark (total prize value \$2,696).





National Recycling Week Events:

The **Schools Recycle Right Challenge** (2 Oct – 17 Nov), the **Friday File Fling** (Fri 17 Nov), **Buy It Back Day** (Sat 18 Nov) and the **Big Aussie Swap**.

Sponsors:

National Recycling Week 2017 is kindly supported by Major Sponsor **Naturale Tissue Products**, Associate Sponsors **Bingo Industries** and **'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark'**, Supporting Sponsors **MobileMuster**, **Planet Ark 100% Australian Recycled Paper (Australian Paper)**, **Tetra Pak** and **Tyre Stewardship Australia** and Prize Partners **Biome**, **eWood Gardens** and **Replas**.

For more information or to get involved visit www.recyclingweek.planetark.org or call the **National Recycling Hotline on 1300 733 712**.

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ⁱ *All Sorted: Answering the Big Recycling Questions*, October 2015

<http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/documents/doc-1327-all-sorted-recycling-week-report---2015.pdf>

ⁱⁱ *What Goes Around: Why Buying Recycled Matters*. A Guide for Households, Businesses and Councils, October 2017

<http://recyclingweek.planetark.org/media/research.cfm>

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://aussierecycledpaper.com.au>