



## Help fight Global Warming – Recycle More, Recycle Better

During this year's **National Recycling Week**, Planet Ark is encouraging people to Recycle More and Recycle Better to help reduce the increasing strain on global resources, driven by population growth and consumerism.

A new **Planet Ark** report: *Prospecting the Future of Recycling* - highlights the important role of recycling and resource management in addressing global warming and helping to improve our capacity to live sustainably. Sponsored by VISY RECYCLING, the report emphasises the responsibility we have across all sectors of society including households, businesses and governments, to address this issue.

"We want to encourage everyone to learn more about what they can and can't recycle in their local area to ensure we're keeping valuable resources out of landfill and to help minimise our impact on climate change" says Planet Ark spokesperson, Rebecca Gilling. "Recycling a single aluminium can saves enough energy to run a TV set for 3 hours. Additionally, Australia leads the world in newspaper recycling, with over 75% of newsprint recycled. This represents a potential annual saving of more than 1.2 million tonnes of greenhouse gases and 140 million litres of water."

Research carried out for **National Recycling Week** by Pollinate Green and sponsored by Bartercard reveals that while 56% of respondents believe recycling is their responsibility, 80% wrongly believe they can recycle broken wine glasses through kerbside collection services. In addition, almost half of those polled believe that contaminants like Pyrex, plastic bags and ceramics can similarly be put into their home recycling.

More than 50% of respondents do not recycle their food scraps or garden clippings, yet these can be composted at home or through special council collection services. This is an issue because decomposing organic waste emits methane from landfill, a greenhouse gas with 21 times the global warming capacity of carbon dioxide.

Electronic waste (e-waste) recycling has emerged as a new frontier in sustainable resource management. This year's Pollinate Green research shows that support for a national e-waste collection scheme runs to 92%. 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' is one such existing program helping to tackle this problematic and growing waste stream.

It's easy to help fight global warming by remembering to Recycle More and Recycle Better. To find out what's recyclable in your local area, call the **National Recycling Hotline on 1300 733 712**, or log on to [www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au](http://www.RecyclingNearYou.com.au). These services have been developed by Planet Ark in collaboration with the Australian Government and Sensis.

"**Planet Ark** encourages all Australians to use **National Recycling Week** as an opportunity to improve their recycling habits", said **Planet Ark's** Recycling Programs Manager, Brad Gray. "When we recycle more we reduce the need for new resources to create products. This helps to reduce our impact on the planet. When we recycle better we make the entire process more efficient."

**National Recycling Week** runs from November 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2007.

**##ENDS##**

'Prospecting the Future of Recycling' and photos can be downloaded at [www.planetark.com/NRW](http://www.planetark.com/NRW)

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