

National Recycling Week



“Everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God’s gifts!”
Pope Francis inaugural Mass homily

National Recycling Week runs from the 7 – 13 November this year and the theme is **Waste isn't Waste until it's Wasted**. This is Planet Ark’s flagship campaign, run every year in the second week of November. The aim is to educate and empower people to do the right thing when they place an item in a bin. The campaign also focuses on reducing, recycling and reusing. Reducing our consumption is the first step to reducing the amount of waste we produce. You can get involved at work, at home, at school and in your community. Waste is a big issue for all of us but trying to educate people to place the correct item in the correct bin is a bigger issue! It is a bit tricky, so let’s learn together!

What do all these symbols mean?

All 3 symbols on the right refer to a specific part of the packaging and how to deal with it. The symbol on the left means you can place the box in your kerbside recycling bin. The symbol in the middle means you can recycle the wrap but you need to follow the instructions as to how and where it can be recycled. The symbol on the far right means that the lid has to go into a landfill bin.



What is true recycling? This is when an item is recycled and turned into a new product, this new product is then able to be purchased by consumers and businesses, so that the material is re used.



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What’s the difference between recyclable and recycled? Recyclable means that the packaging can be collected, sorted and turned into a new item. Recycled means it is an item made from recycled materials.

What should not go into your recycling bin? Plastic bags full of recyclables, soft plastics, clothing, electrical items, food and other organic matter, polystyrene foam and plastic items that cannot be recycled.



Did you know?

The number you see inside the triangle tells you what type of plastic the packaging is made from. It doesn’t necessarily mean the item can be recycled.



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Australians dispose of 21.7 kgs of e-waste each year, one of the highest in the world. [Source](#) Don't forget if you can't recycle materials at home or at work, it doesn't mean it can't be recycled. It may mean you have to transport it to a 'drop off' location. For example, electronic waste can be recycled. Find a local e-waste recycling service at [Business Recycling](#) or for household quantities, search [RecyclingNearYou](#).

Resources

[Your local council](#)

[Re purpose items](#)

[Turn a litter clean up into a scavenger hunt!](#)

[Decoding Trash](#)

[12 recycling activities](#)

[Teachstarter Recycling](#)

[Cross curricula 'hands on' activities](#)

[19 recycling activities](#)

[Recycling lessons Cool Australia](#)

Videos

[A good introduction to recycling](#)

[How Australia is sorting its giant waste and recycling problem | ABC News - YouTube](#)

[Plastic Pollution: How Humans are Turning the World into Plastic](#)

Ideas to inspire you!

- Organise a Waste Free lunch week
- Run a 'Recycled Art' competition (Google recycling projects for school students)
- Hold a lunchtime debate on 'should we bother to recycle?'
- Write a play to perform at assembly to demonstrate and educate about placing the correct item into the correct bin.
- Start a worm farm or compost heap and learn about decomposition and nutrient recycling.
- Design posters to educate the community about recycling and display around the school.
- Start a recycling system for your school or your parish for soft plastics, ink cartridges etc.
- Write letters to councils who don't provide recycling systems in your area for glass, plastic and organics.