

**Schools
Recycle
Right**



**NATIONAL
RECYCLING WEEK**

PLANET ARK

Getting Started Guide



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All About the Schools Recycle Right Challenge

The aim of this guide is to assist you in planning your school's National Recycling Week activities. In 2013, National Recycling Week will be held from 11 to 17 November.

For more information about National Recycling Week, or to find out about other National Recycling Week activities like the Friday File Fling and the Big Aussie Swap, visit the National Recycling Week website at RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org

What is the Schools Recycle Right Challenge?

The Schools Recycle Right Challenge is an initiative that brings together a wide range of recycling-themed activities, lesson plans, supporting resources, and events ideas that have been developed specifically for Australian schools. Each resource has been developed to enable learning by doing, and learning by having fun!

Schools around the country are invited to join the Schools Recycle Right Challenge through a simple online registration form. By registering to participate in the Challenge, schools gain access to a wide range of ready-to-use materials and resources, a recycling competition just for schools, as well as early registration incentives.

The Schools Recycle Right Challenge will run for a four-week period from Mon 21 October – Fri 15 November. Schools can nominate to participate in as many recycling-themed activities and lessons as they like, and the dates these activities are held is flexible during the period of the Challenge. This initiative has been designed for flexibility in the classroom and within the school term, while maintaining strong, consistent messaging about the importance of recycling and the conservation of resources.

By registering your school in the 2013 Schools Recycle Right Challenge, you'll be joining with

hundreds of other recycling activities and events across the country. Together we can build on the recycling skills we already have and make a significant and positive environmental impact.

Why Should Your School Get Involved?

The Schools Recycle Right Challenge is a fun way to learn! It offers an opportunity to:

- ♻️ Achieve learning outcomes in key study areas of Society, Environment and Science. National Recycling Week activities could also be incorporated into Art, Poetry, Maths, English, Communication, and Work & Community (life skills) studies. Planet Ark provides a range of teachers resources that can be downloaded from the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website.
- ♻️ Develop your School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) or achieve Early Years Learning Framework Outcome 2.
- ♻️ Be part of a national environmental activity and really make a difference!

Getting Started

Choosing a Date

Although National Recycling Week 2013 runs from 11 to 17 November, the Schools Recycle Right Challenge will operate over a four week period in the final term of the school year. Schools will be encouraged to arrange one or more recycling-themed lessons, activities or events between Mon 21 October and Fri 15 November 2013. This period of recycling enthusiasm across the country allows schools to customise their participation in the Challenge to suit their needs and timetables.

The four-week period of the Schools Recycle Right Challenge captures the lead up to National Recycling Week, and the Week itself. Throughout this period, Planet Ark will be promoting recycling throughout the country in partnership with councils, businesses, communities, and the media. The increased publicity about recycling during

October and November may help you to motivate your students and fellow colleagues to actively participate in the Schools Recycle Right Challenge.

Whenever you choose to hold your Schools Recycle Right Challenge activities, lessons or events, please register your school with us to be part of the national tally. We will use these participation figures to calculate the number of people involved in recycling-themed initiatives as part of National Recycling Week 2013. Registering your activities is easy and can be done through the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website or by calling the National Recycling Hotline on 1300 733 712.

Choosing Activities

There are lots of great ways that your school can get involved in the Schools Recycle Right Challenge. We've put together a list of just a few of the ways your school can help celebrate National Recycling Week 2013.



Lesson Plans and Learning Activities

Planet Ark has developed curriculum-based lesson plans that teachers can download from the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website. These resources are designed to educate students about the items that can be recycled, the recycling process, the amount of waste we create and much, much more.

To support your recycling-themed lessons and classroom activities, a series of 12 recycling factsheets are available for download from the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website.



Recycling or Re-Use Events

If you're interested in doing something a little different with your class, why not organise a recycling event? From Swap Parties and File Flings to Recycling Games Carnivals, Planet Ark has developed resources to assist you planning, implementing and promoting National Recycling Week activities at your schools. The events are easy-to-run, popular and educational – a recipe for recycling success!

'How to' guides and supporting resources for a range of event types are available for download from the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website.

The Recycling Games

Learning is best when it's fun! That's why Planet Ark has developed the School Recycling Games. It's a series of physical activities, based loosely on events found at the Olympic Games, which are an engaging and entertaining way for students to learn about the benefits of recycling and how to 'recycle right'. The physical elements of the Recycling Games will help



develop students' fitness, motor skills, coordination, agility, flexibility and teamwork skills. With minor adjustments, the Games are suitable for students from early primary to middle secondary school.

The School Recycling Games can be run in conjunction with the lesson-based activities to help reinforce the key messages.

The Recycling Games Guide is available for download from the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website.



Art and Craft Activities

Recycled art and 'junk to funk' projects can be very popular with kids and adults alike. With Australians being keen recyclers, there's no shortage of items around school and at home that can be transformed into works of art. Recycled art can take many forms; from collages and instruments to picture frames and plastic bag knitting, the possibilities are endless. And once your waste-to-art creations are complete, why not hold an exhibition to showcase them in your classroom, library or school hall?

To give you a few art and craft ideas and to help you get started, Planet Ark has put together a short guide full of fun projects you can make with your students. The Recycled Art and Crafts Guide is available for download from the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website.

Guest Speakers

Organise for a waste educator or a local composting expert to give a presentation at your school to teach students about how recycling works and to share some recycling advice. Many councils and



recycling companies have waste or environmental education officers. Some will provide these services free of charge and they usually have extensive knowledge about what can be recycled in your area and why. Alternatively, if you have a reuse or recycling organisation in your area, they may be willing to give you and your students a guided tour of their operations. This provides students with a hands-on, interactive experience with recycling that will be distinct and memorable.

Start a New Recycling System

National Recycling Week is the ideal time to establish or launch a new recycling initiative at your school. Whether you're starting from scratch or building upon previous work, there's a long list of items you can recycle with your students. Schools are great places to set up recycling collections for a range of items including:

- ♻ canteen and lunch box items,
- ♻ printer cartridges through 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark',
- ♻ mobile phones through MobileMuster,
- ♻ batteries,
- ♻ books or
- ♻ aluminium cans.



Recycling these items can be really easy, and it's a great way to demonstrate your school's commitment to the environment.

The Schools Recycle Right Challenge website contains a range of factsheets about the recycling of many materials, as well as recycling signs to help get your collection system off to a great start.



Composting or Worm Farming Demonstrations

Spending more time outdoors is good for kids and composting and worm farming activities are a great way of getting a breath of fresh air while learning about recycling. If your school already has a compost heap or worm farm, why not have a hands-on lesson looking at the types of things you can put into it as well as how it works?

If your school doesn't have a compost heap or worm farm yet, don't despair - National Recycling Week is the perfect time to start one up. To help you on your composting journey, Costa Georgiadis shares his top tips for schools in a short video that's available on the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website.

Other resources on the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website that can augment composting and worm farming activities are Planet Ark's food scraps and garden cuttings factsheets.

Something to Consider

Many recycling-related activities require knowledge of what's recyclable in your area and/or some recyclable items. Because the range of items accepted in kerbside recycling collections varies by location, it's a good idea for you visit

RecyclingNearYou.com.au to check which items are accepted in your school's local area. You'll also find information on how to recycle other items such as batteries, printer cartridges, mobile phones, eyeglasses, used clothing, corks, household chemicals and much more. If you have any questions about the materials accepted in your school's local area, please call the Recycling Hotline on 1300 733 712 (9am – 5pm EST).

What is accepted for recycling by the council areas that are near your school may be quite different to what is recyclable at your school.

Planning a Schools Recycle Right Challenge activity

There are a wide variety of activities and events that your school can get involved in as part of the Schools Recycle Right Challenge. The amount of organising and preparation required will depend on the activities you decide to arrange, for example an in-classroom lesson may require less preparation than an excursion to a nearby recycling facility.

Regardless of the activities your school decides to run, remember to register what you're doing on the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website. Registration provides access to a suite of great resources as well as the opportunity to enter competitions and win great prizes for your school.

Steps

1. Ask your colleagues if they would like to get involved in the Schools Recycle Right Challenge too – many hands make light work.
2. Pick an activity or multiple activities for your students to get involved in.
3. Pick dates for your activities.
4. Register your school in the Schools Recycle Right Challenge.
5. Ask for support from your local community, school administration, or recycling contractor.
6. Gather what you need for the day.

Registration process

By registering your school in the Schools Recycle Right Challenge you will receive updates, information and support materials to help you organise your events. Many of the resources are only available to registered schools – and it's completely free. You'll also go into the running to win prizes for your school and your students. And it's a very simple two-step process.

1. First, register as an **activity coordinator** via the website or Recycling Hotline.
2. Then, register the activities you're planning to run with your school.

What is National Recycling Week?

Planet Ark founded National Recycling Week in 1996 as a community education and media campaign. The aim was to bring a national focus to recycling and the broader themes of minimising waste and managing material resources.

Now in its 17th year, National Recycling Week is an established and highly regarded annual education and behaviour change campaign. The aim of the campaign is to increase the environmental benefits, including greater tonnage and less contamination, of kerbside, industrial and community recycling programs. National Recycling Week provides us all with an opportunity to move towards avoiding waste through building on our daily habits to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle at home, at work, and in the community.

National Recycling Week 2013 will be held from 11 to 17 November and will focus on five streams:

1. Engaging students in learning about the environmental benefits of recycling, through the Schools Recycle Right Challenge.

2. Increasing the number of businesses and workplaces involved in recycling, principally through the promotion of the Friday File Fling.
3. Promoting community reuse and recycling initiatives, particularly through promotion of council, school and workplace-based exchange events as part of the Big Aussie Swap,
4. Improving the understanding of kerbside recycling, principally through an educative Recycle Right Quiz hosted on the National Recycling Week website.
5. Increasing access to accurate recycling information through the RecyclingNearYou website and hotline, as well as the National Recycling Week website.

National Recycling Week 2013 is kindly supported by The Australian Packaging Covenant, Century Yuasa, and 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark'.

National Recycling Week Contact Details

National Recycling Hotline: **1300 733 712**

Schools Recycle Right Challenge website:
SchoolsRecycle.PlanetArk.org

National Recycling Week website:
RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org

Contact email:
recycling@planetark.org

Mailing address:
Level 3, 15-17 Young St, Sydney NSW 2000

Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/IHeartRecycling

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