



Recycling

By recycling items within your business you can help preserve natural resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save money and enhance your environmental performance!



Be a sport & recycle.

Recycling facts

Cardboard and paper

- Each year around 1.5 million tonnes of paper and cardboard gets recycled into things like cardboard packaging, SAFE toilet paper, sound proofing materials and even furniture – this is the equivalent of over 20 million trees!

Newsprint

- In 2001 Australians recycled 492,000 of the 682,000 tonnes of the newsprint that they used. Most of this newsprint was recycled through the kerbside collection systems.
- In the decade from 1989 to 1999, the recycling rate for newsprint has risen from 28% to 70%.
- Recycled newsprint and magazines are used in creating new newsprint, cardboard, kitty litter, egg cartons and house insulation.
- Making newsprint from recycled fibre uses six times less energy than when made from trees. This means an average Australian household that recycles newspapers for a year can save enough electricity to power a three bedroom house for five days.

Plastic bags

- Plastic bags take a long time to biodegrade – somewhere between 20 and 1000 years!
- Australians use around six billion plastic bags per year, 3.3 billion of which are supermarket plastic bags. Plastic bags are a convenience item as well as an environmental problem.
- Less than three percent of these are recycled, over two and a half billion go to landfill which leaves billions of bags polluting the environment.
- In the past five years, Coles Supermarkets have recycled 120 million for reuse into such products as flower pots.
- Plastics that get flushed into the ocean pose a major health hazard to marine life. It is estimated that over 100,000 sea mammals worldwide die every year from swallowing or becoming entangled in plastic.

Recycling facts continued...

Steel cans

- Making new steel from recycled cans uses 75% less energy than making steel from raw materials – saving resources and cutting down greenhouse emissions.
- 42% of the steel cans used in Australia are recycled – equivalent to over 750 million cans! Recycled steel cans get turned into a whole range of new products, including car bodies, bicycles, train tracks and even new steel cans.
- All steel cans are recyclable – even aerosols, food oil cans, sardine cans, dog food cans and baby food cans.
- Every year, each Australian sends around 3.5 kilograms of steel cans to landfill – that's enough steel to make 40,000 fridges!

Glass

- From 1992 to 2000, the recycling rate for glass has risen from 55% to 82%.
- Over 363,000 tonnes of glass was recycled in 2001 – that's over 1.4 billion bottles diverted from landfill.
- Recycled glass is turned back into glass bottles and jars, 'Glasphalt' road fill, filter materials and insulation. For every one tonne of crushed glass used 1.1 tonnes of raw materials are conserved.

Plastic

- From 1992 to 2000, the recycling rate for plastic has risen from 37% to 81%.
- A whole range of plastics now get recycled into PET soft drink bottle plastic and HDPE milk bottle plastic.
- Over 24,000 tonnes of PET soft drink plastic was recovered in Australia in 2001 – that's over 575 million PET soft drink bottles! Around 18,000 tonnes of this were recycled in Australia, mainly into new soft drink bottles.
- In Australia, Coca-Cola now have 25% recycled content in their 390ml, 600ml, 1.25ltr and 2ltr bottles.

Aluminium cans

- In 2001 Australia recycled over 25,700 tonnes of aluminium cans – that's over 67% of the cans we used in 2001.
- Twenty aluminium cans can be recycled with the same energy required to produce one new can from raw materials.
- By recycling one aluminium can, you save enough energy to run a TV for three hours.

Milk and juice cartons

- 200 million milk and juice cartons were recycled in 2001 into high quality office paper and cardboard.
- Milk cartons are not wax coated. They're actually coated with a fine layer of plastic. Dairies print onto the plastic lining – when recyclers remove the plastic, they remove the ink too, leaving a high quality white fibre for recycling.

Material source: Planet Ark website and Western Regional Waste Management Group (illustration)

For more information

To find out more about recycling in your business, contact the Sustainable Traders Project Officer on (03) 9209 6474 or email karcher@portphillip.com.au, or visit <http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/ecoedge.html>

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