

GETTING STARTED GUIDE



The Schools Recycle Right Challenge offers a wide range of recycling themed activities, lesson plans and events ideas that have been developed specifically for Australian schools. The aim of this guide is to assist you in planning your school's National Recycling Week activities. For more information about National Recycling Week visit RecyclingWeek.PlanetArk.org

**Schools
Recycle
Right**



**NATIONAL
RECYCLING WEEK**
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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.

Register your school to participate in the challenge at schoolsrecycle.planetark.org/involved. Registering will give your school access to all our ready to download and use resources and enables your school to enter the SRRC competition schoolsrecycle.planetark.org/competition. Registering also lets us know your school is involved and counts towards the national tally.

The Challenge runs over five weeks from early October through to the last Friday of National Recycling Week (visit [SRRC website](#) for specific dates). Schools can participate as much or as little as they like, choosing activities, lessons, events and dates that suit their needs. The Challenge is designed to be flexible within the school term and caters for a range of ages and available time.

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 the Australian curriculum including NAPLAN practice.
- ♻️ Develop your School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP).
- ♻️ Be part of a national environmental activity and really make a difference!



GETTING STARTED

CHOOSING A DATE

The period of the Challenge captures the lead up to **National Recycling Week**, during this time Planet Ark will be running a nationwide media campaign encouraging schools, councils and businesses to promote recycling through a variety of resources, events and activities. Schools can participate at any time during the period of the challenge (visit [SRRC website](#) for specific dates) and your school may also get involved with activities run by your local council which could also count towards the challenge.

Don't forget it's not just the kids who can get involved, encourage your colleagues to participate in National Recycling Week too for more information about this head to: businessrecycling.com.au.

If you need any help registering your school or have any questions about the Challenge please contact 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.

LESSON PLANS AND LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Planet Ark has developed curriculum-based lesson plans with Cool Australia that teachers can find via 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.

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.

'How to' guides and supporting resources for a range of event types are available for download from the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website. schoolsrecycle.planetark.org/coords/guidesandactivities.cfm

THE RECYCLING GAMES

Learning outdoors can help engage students more. 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.

You can download the 'How To Set Up A Recycling System' guide from the Schools Recycle Right Challenge website, 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. schoolsrecycle.planetark.org/coords/resourcesandsignage.cfm

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, used clothing, 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).



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.

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. Register your school in the Schools Recycle Right Challenge.
3. Pick an activity or multiple activities for your students to get involved in.
4. Pick dates for your activities.
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. [Register as an activity coordinator via the website](#) or Recycling Hotline. It's a very simple one-step Process.

Enter our schools competition to win some great prizes. See the website for details.



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.

National Recycling Week is a well 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 focuses 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 and the Monday Muster.
3. Promoting reuse and recycling initiatives, particularly through promotion of council, school and community events.
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.

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: enquiries@planetark.org

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/planetark