



MEDIA RELEASE

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Over half of all plastic waste in Australia generated by business Planet Ark releases new guide to help businesses manage plastic waste

[*How to Reduce and Recycle Plastics at Work*](#) is an online tool designed to help Australian businesses cut down on **over one million tonnes of plastic waste**ⁱ they currently send to landfill each year.

The guide comes at a time when state governments across Australia are rolling out single-use plastic bans to address plastic pollution in the environment and the quantity of plastics being sent to landfill. *How to Reduce and Recycle Plastics at Work* provides information on these plastic bans and how they impact businesses as well as practical information and tips to reduce plastic waste.

“There is a great deal of concern about plastic pollution among Australians, both in terms of the impact on our beautiful natural environment and in terms of overall waste creation,” said Planet Ark co-CEO Rebecca Gilling.

“We created this guide to make it easy for businesses around the country to take responsibility and reduce, reuse and recycle plastics in their workplace.”

According to the most recent National Waste Report released in 2020, there is now more than 50 million tonnes of plastic in Australian landfills, with around 1.2 million tonnes of plastic of the 2.1 million tonnes added per year created by businesses. Perhaps even more concerning from an environmental perspective, seven of the top ten litter items collected from the nation’s largest waterways are plasticⁱⁱ.

How to Reduce and Recycle Plastics at Work provides simple solutions to the top ten plastic products used at work making it easier for businesses to reduce their plastic impact and potentially reduce waste management costs. The guide also provides case studies of Australian businesses that have championed plastic waste reduction, how to use the waste hierarchy at work and information on plastic recycling and plastic identification codes.

The guide is a new resource from Planet Ark’s Business Recycling website, which enables Australian businesses to address their waste, increase efficiency and improve their reputation while reducing unnecessary costs. In a recent survey that ran over 50 days, approximately 400 Business Recycling users reported finding recycling solutions for over 4,000 kg of materials.

The information provided on Business Recycling and Recycling Near You is representative of available recycling services in Australia. The Business Recycling program is made possible through the support of Foundation Partner, the NSW Government. To find out more, visit [BusinessRecycling.com.au](https://www.businessrecycling.com.au).

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How to Reduce and Recycle Plastics at Work is available in full at:
businessrecycling.com.au/research/reduce_recycle_plastics

More resources for Business

- [War on Waste Toolkit for Business](#) – no matter where your organisation is in its war on waste journey, this toolkit will help you waste less and recycle more.
- [A Guide to Recycling Stardom](#) – learn how to become a recycling rockstar at work with these easy, practical tips.
- [Choosing the Right Recycler Checklist and Factsheet](#) – key questions you should ask a potential recycler to ensure do the right thing both environmentally and legally.
- [Signage and Posters](#) – download free posters and put them up near your workplace bins to help your colleagues recycle correctly.

About Planet Ark

Planet Ark Environmental Foundation is an Australian not-for-profit organisation with a vision of a world where people live in balance with nature. Established in 1992, it is one of Australia's leading environmental behaviour change organisations with a focus on working collaboratively and positively. Planet Ark promotes and creates simple, positive environmental actions – for everyone.

For more information, case studies or interviews, please contact:

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ⁱ 'National Waste Report 2020', *Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment*, <<https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/env/pages/5a160ae2-d3a9-480e-9344-4eac42ef9001/files/national-waste-report-2020.pdf>>

ⁱⁱ Litter items identified were collected in 8 of the nation's largest waterway catchments flowing out into the Great South Reef by Conservation Volunteers Australia crews since September 2020 up to the recent floods. 'What are the top 10 marine waste items?', *Inside Waste*, <https://www.insidewaste.com.au/index.php/2022/04/21/what-are-the-top-10-marine-waste-items/>