



Media Release

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How to fight a festive war on waste with the 12 DOs of Christmas

Surprising new stats and practical tips on how to have a waste free holiday

Over the Christmas period we buy, eat and party more than at any other time of the year. In 2016 the Australian Retailers Association predicted Australians would spend a massive \$48 billion over Christmas, which leads to a big increase in the amount of waste we produce.

Common Christmas gifts like computers, printers, iPads, mobile phones, clothing and fashion accessories lead to older items and packaging being discarded, and celebrations like Christmas dinner or parties generate more waste, both from packaging and food.

But much like the Boxing Day ritual of sorting the recycling, there are lots of ways Aussies can cut back on waste during and after the festive fun. Some great examples include:

- Planet Ark's research for **National Recycling Week** found that more than 50% of Australians save food for Boxing Day, 40% reuse their old wrapping paper and 37% find out what recipients want before buying gifts.
- **Bingo Industries** generally see an increase in skip bin orders for pre and post-Christmas home renovations and Planet Ark has verified that every skip bin, once filled, goes to a recycling centre. In FY17 an independent audit of Bingo's Auburn recycling centre showed an average resource recovery rate of 79%.
- In January, Australians will drop off an average of 150 extra printer cartridges per day to **Cartridges 4 Planet Ark** collection boxes found in all Officeworks stores and all participating Australia Post, Good Guys, Harvey Norman, JB Hi-Fi and Office National outlets around the country. This will follow the program's biggest ever year in which **Australians returned over 3.5 million printer cartridges**.
- **MobileMuster** sees record sales of mobile phones over summer and recommends that Aussies either take their phones to a **MobileMuster** collection bin for recycling or get in the Christmas spirit by giving any old phones to a family member in need.
- **TechCollect** say that Christmas is an ideal time for people to dispel some common e-waste recycling myths; **1 in 5 Australians 'hoard' old technology, with 83% not knowing where to recycle e-waste!** Thankfully TechCollect and RecyclingNearYou both offer websites that let Christmas shoppers know where to take their outdated TVs and computers.
- Recycling all that Christmas egg nog and custard packaging – **Tetra Pak** reports that **they sell 30 times more** of these products in December, and thankfully most Australians can recycle the cartons in their kerbside bins.

These examples aren't the end of the holiday waste reduction story though. Planet Ark's annual 12 DOs of Christmas campaign is designed to help consumers reduce waste and save money around





Christmas with a range of simple actions people can take to have a happy and waste-free festive season available at 12DOs.planetark.org.

Planet Ark's Recycling Programs Manager Ryan Collins is looking forward to seeing how Australians approach the festive season after the runaway success of the ABC documentary series **War on Waste**.

"2017 has been a landmark year for Australia's waste and recycling discussion, and this Christmas is a great time to look at the best and worst parts of our habits. Over the festive period councils report a steep spike in the amount of waste they collect, but with 12 DOs every Australian can fight a festive war on waste."

Collins also encourages shoppers who want to celebrate the circular economy this Christmas to visit Planet Ark's new directory of products made from recycled materials at RecyclingNearYou.com.au.

For more top tips on how to have a waste-free Christmas and sustainable New Year visit RecyclingNearYou.com.au, which is sponsored by Proud Partners **Bingo Industries**, and Page Sponsors '**Cartridges 4 Planet Ark**', **MobileMuster**, **TechCollect** and **Tetra Pak**.

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For further information, interviews or images please contact:

Josh Cole
Communications Coordinator
josh@planetark.org
02 8484 7202

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