



Media Release

For immediate release

Live large these holidays with a small footprint

From renovation recycling to reducing food waste, any Aussie can have an eco-friendly holiday.

The summer holidays are a time for Australians to celebrate, travel, revive and live large, but there's also room to think of the planet. That's why Planet Ark has put together a low-waste holiday survival guide – titled *Planet Ark's Holiday Hacks for Living Large with a Small Footprint* - packed with tips on everything from how to keep renovation materials out of landfill, travel responsibly, to cutting back on food waste without cutting back on fun.

Australians were estimated to have spent over \$11 billion last year around Christmasⁱ, which makes for a lot of food waste, packaging and carbon emissions. Despite this massive amount of spending Planet Ark is hearing from an increasing number of Australians who want to have a less wasteful holiday season.

TechCollect found that over a fifth of Australians consider themselves hoarders of old technologyⁱⁱ, meaning that the usual holiday splurge might be just adding to a pile of unused electronics.

The average Australian household has \$4,200 worth of unused goodsⁱⁱⁱ that they could sell or give away, keeping material circulating rather than gathering dust in sheds or landfill.

“Our site RecyclingNearYou.com.au sees more traffic in January than any time of year as people try to clean out the excess ‘stuff’ like old clothing and technology, which is why we put together the hacks,” says Ryan Collins, Planet Ark's Recycling Programs Manager.

“And there are lots of other great ways to reduce your holiday eco-footprint, such as finding a skip bin company that recycles your renovation or holiday clean-out waste, buying second-hand or recycled, and being economical with things like food and travel.”

Planet Ark's survival guide also includes tips from eco ambassadors in fields ranging from professional decluttering to rocket science.

“You can have a really rewarding holiday while aiming to make as little waste as possible; it's not about choosing between fun or your eco credentials”, says Anita Vandyke, Planet Ark ambassador, rocket scientist and the author of *A Zero Waste Life*.

For more information about how to live large over the holidays while keeping your eco footprint small, visit recyclingnearyou.com.au/holidays.

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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, we are one of Australia's leading environmental behaviour change organisations with a focus on working collaboratively and positively.

About RecyclingNearYou

Planet Ark launched [RecyclingNearYou](#) in November 2006.

By visiting the website, you can:

- Find out about what you can and can't recycle in your household recycling services or at drop off locations for a range of items including [computers](#), [coffee capsules](#), [mobile phones](#), [paint](#), [printer cartridges](#) and [TVs](#).
- Explore the [Reuse Hub](#) for information on reusing or sharing products instead of buying new ones.
- Search the [Recycled Products Directory](#) for items made with recycled materials.

Sponsors

RecyclingNearYou is sponsored by Proud Partners **Bingo Industries**, and Page Sponsors **Cartridges 4 Planet Ark, MobileMuster, Nespresso, Paintback, TechCollect and Tetra Pak**.

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ⁱ "Aussies splurge \$11b on Christmas Shopping", *Commonwealth Bank*, 4 December 2017, <https://www.commbank.com.au/guidance/newsroom/aussies-splurge-11b-on-christmas-shopping-201712.html>.

ⁱⁱ "New research shows Australians holding onto broken devices to the detriment of the environment", *TechCollect*, 5 October 2017, <https://techcollect.com.au/new-research-shows-australians-holding-onto-broken-devices-to-the-detriment-of-the-environment/>.

ⁱⁱⁱ "Gumtree Second Hand Economy Report", *Gumtree*, 2018, <https://www.gumtree.com.au/second-hand-economy/>.

