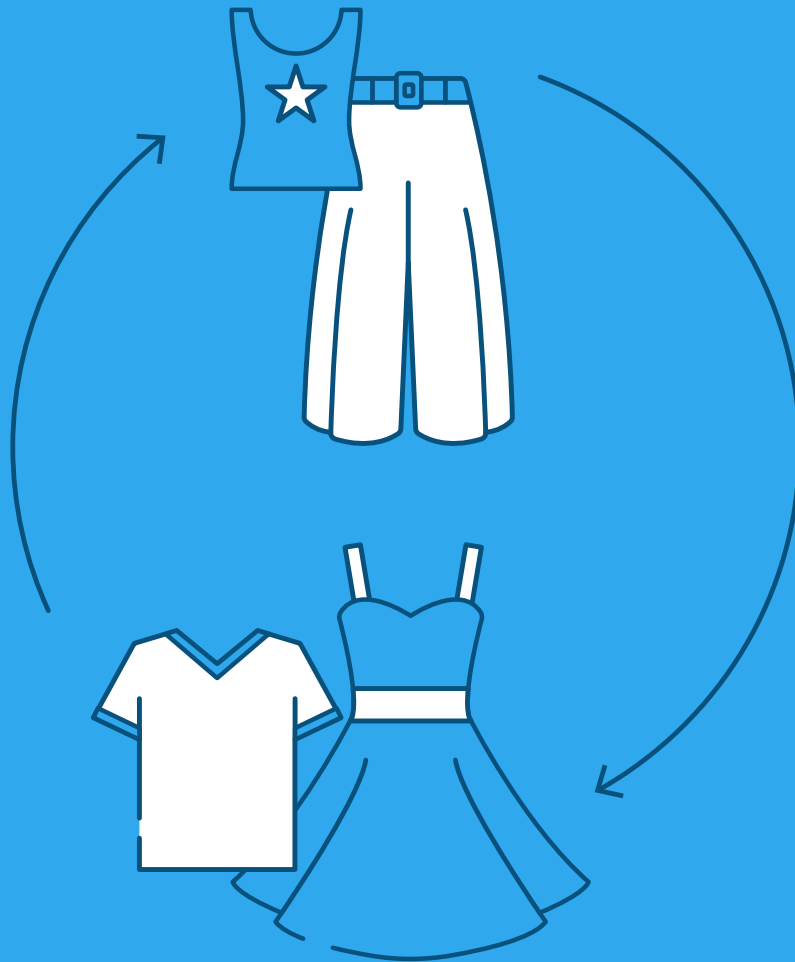


PLANET ARK'S NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK

# Clothing Swap



Help create sustainable fashion habits with this guide to organising clothes-swap events at your school, council or workplace.



NATIONAL  
RECYCLING  
WEEK  
**PLANET ARK**

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*Coca-Cola*  
Australia

**Tetra Pak**  
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**CARTRIDGES 4  
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# Why swap clothes?

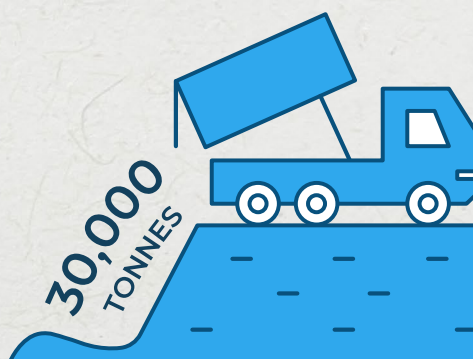
## FAST FASHION FACTS



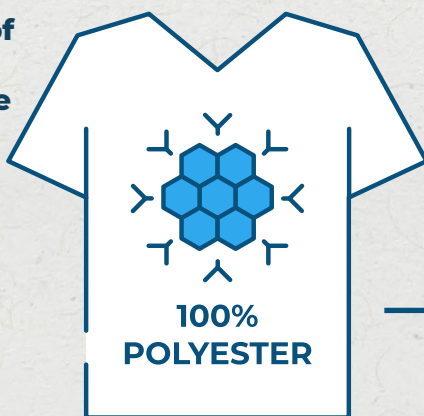
PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION OF TEXTILES

Australians are the largest consumers of new clothing, on a per capita basis, in the world.<sup>1</sup> The average Australian now buys **56 items of new clothing every year!**

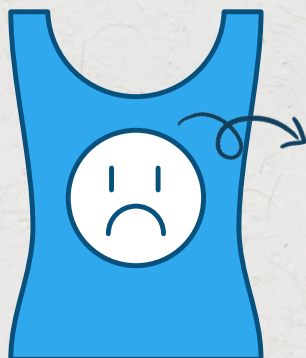
Every year, over **300,000 tonnes of clothing** is either sent to landfill or exported from Australia.<sup>2</sup> Two thirds goes directly to landfill.



**Over half (52%) of clothing sold in Australia is made from polyester** (PET, which is derived from petroleum), and a further 10% is made from other synthetic (i.e. plastic) fibres.<sup>3</sup>



Waste from synthetic textiles, which ultimately breaks down into microplastics, presents **a persistent environmental and health hazard.**<sup>4</sup>



The overproduction of the fast fashion model means that **billions of garments are never sold or worn.**<sup>5</sup> Many go straight to landfill or are incinerated.



Australians purchase **60% more clothing** than they did 15 years ago and keep them for only half as long.<sup>6</sup> Australians only wear between 33% to 40% of their clothing.<sup>7</sup>

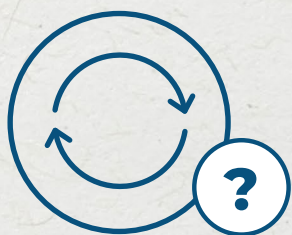




## FAST FASHION FACTS



Although charitable organisations can recover a substantial amount of textiles through donations, **they can only sell about 15% of these garments in stores.**<sup>8</sup>



It is estimated that 62% of all donated clothing is exported for “reuse”, but the reality is that much of this ends up in landfill overseas in a practice that has been dubbed “**waste colonisation.**”<sup>9</sup>

## REMEMBER YOUR R’S



### Reduce

Be conscious about your purchases. Consider if or why you need it in the first place.



### Repair

Repairing clothes can be a cheap and convenient way to make the most of your well-loved outfits.



### Recycle

Outside of donating quality clothes to charity, some stores are embracing recycling schemes and initiatives.

## Tips for Clothes Recycling



Clothing and shoes should **never** be put in your household recycling bin.



If you would gift it to a friend or family member, then it's in **good enough condition to donate to a charity shop.**

## REFERENCES (1-9)

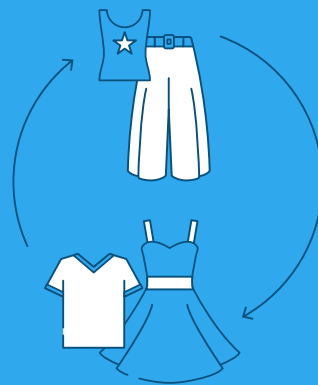
[Textile Waste in Australia: Discussion Paper, 2024](#) - The Australia Institute

[Textile waste management in Australia: A review, 2023](#), Resources Conservations and Recycling Advances



# Clothing Swap

## WORKPLACE CHECKLIST



**Schedule a time around or during National Recycling Week** (November 10-16) into everyone's calendar so there aren't any clashes with other meetings or events.



**Turn the event into a fundraiser.** Use our donation flyer to provide a QR code to any staff who'd like to help Planet Ark continue the work we do.



**Use our invitation and poster templates** to share details and information with your colleagues.



**Be sure to have fun and say thanks** to everyone involved in making the event a huge success!



**Set your ground rules:** you want to make sure people bring in good quality clothing and manageable quantities.



**Remember the Golden Rule:** the items people bring in should be of good quality. Would they gift it to family or a friend?



**Organise snacks and drinks.** Think about planning this event around regularly scheduled office events or see if there is room in the budget for catering.



**Have a plan for any leftover clothing.** Check [Recycling Near You](#) for charity stores that may have use for any leftover items.

### Share your swap event with us!



We love seeing and hearing about people getting involved in sustainable initiatives. Please share your clothing swap event with us!

#### Tag:

@PlanetArk

#### Hashtags:

#NationalRecyclingWeek  
#JoinTheCycle





# Clothing Swap

## SCHOOLS CHECKLIST



Organise a time for your clothing swap during the **Schools Recycle Right campaign** (6-16 November) to connect with other activities happening around the school.



**Use our invitation and poster templates** to share details and information with the school community.



**Set your ground rules:** you want to make sure students and parents bring in good quality clothing and in manageable quantities.



**Remember the Golden Rule:** the items people bring in should be of good quality. Would they gift it to family or a friend?



If your event occurs outside of school hours, **organise a pot luck or a bake sale** so there are snacks and drinks to enjoy as well.



**Have a plan for any leftover clothing.** Check [Recycling Near You](#) for charity stores that may have use for any leftover items.



**Be sure to say thanks to everyone involved** in making the event a huge success!



### TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE

These events are great for parents who have uniforms their kids have outgrown. Consider a uniform swap first before expanding into casual clothing.

### Share your swap event with us!



We love seeing and hearing about people getting involved in sustainable initiatives. Please share your clothing swap event with us!

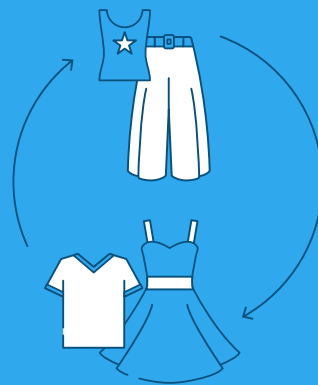
**Tag:**  
@PlanetArk

**Hashtags:**  
#NationalRecyclingWeek  
#JoinTheCycle



# Clothing Swap

## COUNCIL CHECKLIST



**Register your event for National Recycling Week** (November 10 - 16) to get your community involved.



**Use our invitation and poster templates** to share details and information with the community.



**Set your ground rules:** you want to make sure people bring in good quality clothing and manageable quantities.



**Remember the Golden Rule:** the items people bring in should be of good quality. Would they gift it to family or a friend?



**Organise some snacks and refreshments** if your event will run for a few hours. Make sure there are recycling and garbage bins available.



**Have a plan for any leftover clothing.** Check [Recycling Near You](#) for charity stores that may have use for any leftover items.



**Be sure to have fun and say thanks** to everyone involved in making the event a huge success!



### TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE

Depending on the available resources, you might decide to host an event with a specific 'theme'. This may include partnering with schools or certain community groups.

## Share your swap event with us!



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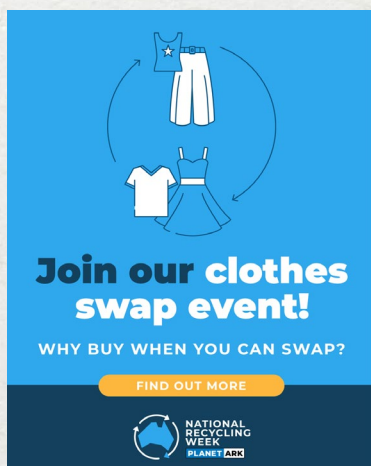




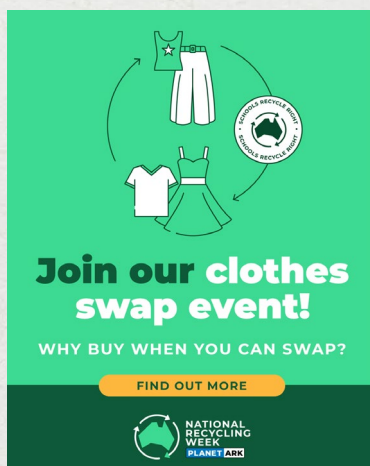
# Resources for your clothing swap

## FREE DOWNLOADS

### Social Media Tiles



FOR GENERAL USE



FOR SCHOOL USE

### Editable Posters (A4)



FOR GENERAL USE



FOR SCHOOL USE



# RESOURCES FOR YOUR CLOTHING SWAP

## Editable Invitations (A5)



FOR GENERAL USE



FOR SCHOOL USE

## Editable Certificates (A4)



Participation Certificate  
FOR GENERAL USE



Fundraising Total Certificate  
FOR GENERAL USE



Participation Certificate  
FOR SCHOOL USE



Fundraising Total Certificate  
FOR SCHOOL USE





# Thank you to our sponsors



Planet Ark warmly thanks the sponsors of National Recycling Week for their invaluable support in helping Australians reduce waste, recycle right and take positive environmental actions. Their commitment makes it possible for us to deliver this campaign each year and inspire and educate households, schools, workplaces and communities across the country on the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling.

## MAJOR SPONSOR



Reducing food waste and unnecessary packaging is important to Coles' customers. By working with industry partners, suppliers and government, Coles aims to increase food security, reduce waste and conserve valuable resources. Coles is both a Planet Ark partner and a Major Sponsor of National Recycling Week, which asks Australians to 'Join the Cycle' and work towards a circular economy. Together with Coles, Planet Ark hopes to educate and provide guidance to encourage Australians to recycle right and keep valuable resources in circulation and out of landfill.

## ASSOCIATE SPONSORS



Coca-Cola Australia has been an Official Sponsor of Planet Ark's National Recycling Week since 2019, supporting education campaigns that help Australians recycle more and waste less. Coca-Cola is committed to a circular economy through its global 'World Without Waste' strategy, aiming to collect and recycle a bottle or can for each one sold by 2030. All Coca-Cola bottles and cans are recyclable, and most plastic bottles under 1L are already made from 100 per cent recycled plastic (excluding caps and labels). With support for container deposit schemes and investment in local recycling infrastructure, Coca-Cola continues to work with Planet Ark to promote positive recycling behaviours.



Tetra Pak is a proud supporter of Planet Ark's National Recycling Week, helping to raise awareness about beverage carton recycling in Australia. Tetra Pak is working towards a low-carbon circular economy that has minimal climate impact across the entire value chain, without compromising on food safety or quality. It is working to achieve this by delivering food and beverage packaging with the lowest carbon footprint and highest material efficiency while increasing the rate of carton recycling globally. Tetra Pak works with Planet Ark to improve recycling access and ensure Australians have clear, accurate information on how to recycle cartons correctly.

## SUPPORTING SPONSORS



MobileMuster, the official recycling program of Australia's mobile phone industry, proudly supports Planet Ark's National Recycling Week. As a long-standing sponsor since 2019, MobileMuster works with Planet Ark to educate Australians about the importance of recycling old phones and accessories. By promoting responsible disposal and supporting national campaigns, MobileMuster helps recover valuable materials, reduce e-waste, and keep harmful substances out of landfill.



Australian Paper Recovery recognises its environmental obligations, both locally and globally, to present and future generations. APR strives towards zero waste to landfill through waste reduction, reuse and recycling, providing comprehensive waste management services that maximise the capture of resources from the waste stream.



Minimising their footprint on the earth is a core focus for Stone & Wood, as is caring for communities more broadly. Through sustainability measures, Stone & Wood are consistently striving to reduce, reuse and recycle, and explore innovative practises that reimagine the ecology of brewing.



Cartridges 4 Planet Ark is an innovative recycling program that provides Australians with a free, easy and environmentally-accredited way to recycle their used printer cartridges. As cartridges are made up of a complex mix of plastics, metal, inks and toners they represent a significant investment in resources. When they are disposed of into landfill these resources are lost. That's why Planet Ark joined with Close the Loop® and the participating manufacturers to set up the innovative Cartridges 4 Planet Ark program. This program collects and returns cartridges for remanufacturing and recycling.

## OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER



Seven West is the official media partner of Planet Ark's flagship annual event, National Recycling Week, which is dedicated to educating and empowering people to reduce, reuse and recycle more of the right things, more often.

## Become a sponsor

Your support can strengthen National Recycling Week and help expand its positive impact across Australia. Together, we can create positive environmental actions for all Australians.

[CONTACT US](#)



NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK  
**Clothing Swap Guide**

“

**The greatest  
threat to our  
planet is the  
belief that  
someone else  
will save it.**



**ROBERT SWAN**

Explorer and conservationist

**PLANET ARK**

PLANET ARK  
ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION

Suite 3.16  
22-36 Mountain Street  
Ultimo NSW 2007  
E: [info@planetark.com](mailto:info@planetark.com)

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