



FACT SHEET

- Australians are the highest per-capita greenhouse gas polluters in the world, emitting more than 550 million tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. *Source: Australian Greenhouse Office*
- Through everyday activities such as transport, household energy use and decay of household waste in landfills, Australian households generate about a fifth of Australia's total emissions. This equals about 15 tonnes per household each year. *Source: Australian Greenhouse Office*
- Australia is one of the highest producers of waste in the world. Buried rubbish can leak toxic substances into the ground and burning rubbish pumps toxic gases into the air. *Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006*
- Each Australian household produces an average of 980 kilograms of waste per year. *Source: acfonline.org.au*
- On average, up to 80% of what we throw away can be reused or recycled. *Source: zerowaste SA*
- Organic waste comprises about 40% of the total amount of solid waste material sent to landfills annually. Removing this material from the waste stream could reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by around 3%. *Source: ABS 2006*
- In March 2006, composting or mulching waste was practiced by 46% of households but the participation rate has continued to drop since 1996 (54%). *Source: ABS 2006*
- Reusing waste material continues to grow among Australian households, from 37% in 1996 to 87% in 2006. *Source: ABS 2006*
- Australians are recycling nearly half their waste (46%), but are facing a major electronic waste (e-waste) challenge. *Source: ABS 2006*
- E-waste in Australia is growing at over three times the rate of general municipal waste. Very little of the increasing amount of electrical and electronic equipment being used in Australia is being recycled, with most of it ending up in landfill, representing a loss of non-renewable resources and potential hazardous materials ending up in landfill. *Source: ABS 2006*
- Most of the hazardous waste materials generated by households were disposed through the usual garbage collection (85% of households). *Source: ABS 2006*

KAB WEEK ACTIVITY RELATED STATISTICS

Change a light for brighter future

- CFLs reduce green house gas emissions as they save approx 80% energy use and last between 6-15 times longer than standard bulbs.
- If every Australian household replaced just 2 lights, this would be the same as taking over 200,000 vehicles off the road each year.
- It would also save enough energy to power over 100,000 Australian homes for an entire year.

Reuse & Save

- Over 18 million printer and toner cartridges are sent to landfill in Australia each year resulting in 5,000 tonnes waste materials.
- Up to 3.4 litres of oil are needed to make one new toner cartridge.
- In Australia, printer cartridge reuse could save up to 4.3 million litres of oil a year.
- A printer cartridge thrown into landfill can take up to 450 years to decompose.

Round em up and hand them in

- Over 90% of the materials in mobile phones can be recovered during recycling and turned into new products like jewellery, stainless steel products, batteries and plastic fence posts
- Mobile phones are not biodegradable and contain small amounts of potentially hazardous substances such as cadmium in NiCad batteries which, if not managed properly, can harm the environment
- Australians upgrade or exchange their mobile phones every 18 to 24 months. There are approximately 15.5 million old mobile phones cluttering people's homes and offices across Australia, of which about 4 million no longer work.
- Three out of four people have at least one old unused mobile phone at home. Nearly four out of 10 people have at least two or more old or unused mobile phones at home that could be recycled.
- 8.7 million handsets were shipped into Australia in 2006.
- 419 tonnes of handsets, batteries and accessories have been collected since the recycling program was initiated by AMTA in late 1999. This includes 2.45 million batteries and handsets (figures current at 31 March 2007).
- One tonne of mobile phone circuits can yield the same amount of precious metals as 110 tonnes of gold ore, 123 tonnes of silver bearing ore and 11 tonnes of copper sulphide ore.
- MobileMuster aims to increase recycling levels to 1.5 million mobile phones and batteries a year by 2008.