

8 November 2019

Officeworks celebrates National Recycling Week by launching new customer recycling program

To celebrate Planet Ark's National Recycling Week (November 11- 17), Officeworks has launched a free battery, pen and marker recycling initiative to help customers reduce their waste to landfill, as part of upgrades to recycling stations across most of its stores over the next 12 months.

With only 3 per cent of batteries currently recycled in Australia, the new Officeworks program provides a significant opportunity to make recycling batteries accessible for more Australians, increasing recycling rates across the country. Currently batteries are commonly thrown into general household waste bins, meaning they go straight to landfill.

After being trialed successfully in five stores, including include Chirnside Park (Vic), Hermit Park (Qld), Mentone (Vic), Taren Point (NSW) and Taylors Lakes (Vic), Officeworks plans to roll out battery recycling to all its stores, in partnership with Envirostream, by the end of 2020. The pen and marker recycling program will be delivered in partnership with BIC and available in majority of stores within the next year.

In 2012, Officeworks established *Bring it Back*, which provides customers the opportunity to recycle computers and laptops, monitors, keyboards, printers, mice, hard drives, mobile phones and accessories, cables, chargers, DVDs and CDs. Since 2005, Officeworks has been involved in the *Cartridges 4 Planet Ark* program, which has seen customers drop off more than 10 million ink and toner cartridges at its stores for recycling.

Planet Ark Chief Executive Officer Paul Klymenko said: "Officeworks has shown great leadership in playing the vital role of being a community collection point for an array of e-waste products. Without widespread collection networks conveniently located, product stewardship schemes set up to collect e-waste cannot be successful. Cartridges 4 Planet Ark is proud to have had Officeworks as collection partner with over 9.5 million cartridges returned to date, making them the number one retail collection point."

To-date, Officeworks has collected more than 4,800 tonnes of e-waste from its customers, diverting it from landfill. In the 2018-2019 financial year, Officeworks helped divert 870 tonnes of e-waste from landfill through its customer recycling programs, an increase of 25% on the year before.

Officeworks General Manager Corporate Affairs, Alexandra Staley, said the retailer has a long-standing commitment to making a positive difference in the communities in which its team and customers live and work.

"We know our customers want to dispose of their unwanted items such as batteries responsibly, and that they appreciate there's value in recovering and reusing the materials. Providing our customers with convenient and effective recycling programs that make a real difference is really important to us."

"The introduction of our battery, pen and marker recycling initiative is a nice extension of our existing customer recycling program and proves our ongoing commitment to the environment," she said.

In addition to helping their customers recycle, Officeworks is also focused on reducing its own operational waste and leading the charge for corporate businesses to aim for zero waste. In the 2018-2019 financial year, Officeworks recycled 82% of its total waste, an increase from 76% in the previous year and an 18% reduction in waste to landfill. Officeworks is aiming to recycle 90% of its total waste in the 2019-2020 financial year.

The Officeworks Ringwood team is at the forefront of this charge. The store, in Melbourne's east, can currently fit their total week's waste into a single green household wheelie bin and are determined to continue reducing this until they are able to say they are completely waste free.

Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation CEO, Brooke Donnelly, said: "Officeworks is one of Australia's leading sustainable organisations. Their innovative approach and support for sustainability

initiatives across resource recovery, education and social programs has been fundamental in the progress towards a circular economy in Australia.”

Customers can find out which recycling services are available at their local Officeworks store by checking the online [store locator](#).

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For more information, imagery or interview opportunities please contact:

Simone Windsor at Haystac:

simone.windsor@haystac.com.au | 0400 012 983

About Officeworks:

Established 25 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 167 stores across Australia, a website that is home to more than 40,000 products, a national call centre, and a business team that helps micro, small and medium-sized businesses start, run and grow. Officeworks offers customers a wide range of office supplies, technology, furniture, art supplies, education resources and helpful services like print & copy and on-site tech support through Geeks2U –delivering an experience that is easy and engaging, no matter how customers choose to shop. Officeworks is focused on the safety, wellbeing and career progression of the 8,000 team members it employs. It’s also dedicated to operating in a sustainable manner, including building and maintaining meaningful connections with the communities in which it operates, fundraising for its national partners and local community groups, continuing to reduce its impact on the environment and source responsibly.