

Recycling

Reduce, reuse, recycle



EcoChurch

Waste is a product of our throw-away society and has been recognised as a significant environmental issue. However many communities are recognising the 'old' approach of the three 'Rs': *reduce, reuse and recycle*. There are many benefits of minimising waste, including reduced use of the earth's resources, reduced energy and water for manufacturing, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Most residents in Australia now make use of Councils' recycling services through the weekly yellow/green bin collections. Many other items that finish up in the 'red bin' or in the bi-annual clean-ups can be recycled.

Planet Ark, on their website www.planetark.org.au offers an excellent information service about what products and where they can be taken for recycling.

In addition to the long established Anglicare clothing bin, St Mark's also provides collection facilities for several items:

Stamps

Cut out stamps from letters (or even just give us the whole stamped envelope) and they will be delivered to ABM (*Anglican Board of Mission*). This is something everyone can do easily and will help ABM fundraising for their work for 'love, hope and justice'. Coordinators: Joy & Alan Martin.

Optical Glasses

How many old pairs of unused glasses do have at home? Your gift of unwanted recycled glasses will be delivered to *Foresight Australia* who will assess and distribute them to developing countries such as Sri Lanka, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Solomon Islands, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Ghana. Coordinator: Sandra Scott.

Candles

Help Ann Clipsham, chandler for The Church Candle House, as she produces quality candles for liturgical use and also to raise money for church-based charities at fetes and markets. Any unwanted candles or stubs of candles can be used. She can also use unwanted oil-based fragrances (eg. scented bath oil, shaving / deodorant sticks, essential oils), long cardboard postal tubes and bubble wrap. Coordinator: Gabrielle Merten.

Magazines

Publications such as National Geographic, Time, women's and sporting magazines, and weekend newspaper magazine supplements, will be delivered to Sister Yvonne Heffernan, a Dominican nun at Santa Sabina College, Strathfield. Sr Yvonne distributes the magazines and extends Christian compassion to men and women in prison and also to men at Matthew Talbot Hostel. Coordinators: Ken & Kay Underwood.

Computer toner cartridges

Australians send 34 printer cartridges to landfill every minute – that equates to 2,050 an hour and 5,000 tonnes per year. We can deprive garbage bins and landfills of electronic waste by dropping used printer cartridges into the recycling box – they will be taken to a Planet Ark collection centre. Coordinator: Bridget McKern.

EcoChurch is about being committed to being a better steward of God's creation.

EcoChurch is about responding to the current environmental crisis in our global village – it is about taking actions as a church, and as individual households. Actions might include things like:

- Installing water tanks
- Replacing incandescent light globes with compact fluorescents
- Taking shorter showers
- Catching public transport more often
- Buying a more efficient car when next replacing it
- Reducing, reusing and recycling more.

St Mark's EcoChurch project runs from World Environment Day June 2007 to 2008, but its impact through changed behaviour will have a lasting effect. Each month we plan to focus on one aspect of what each of us can do to contribute to the solution.

Enquiries: Bridget McKern, Bruce Cooke, Robert Nelson, Sandra Scott.