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## **OFFICEWORKS TRIALS RECYCLING POP UP DAY IN COBURG**

Officeworks is evolving its Bring it Back program by trialling People and Planet Positive recycling pop-up days, enabling customers to donate items that aren't traditionally easy to reuse or recycle.

In partnership with Close the Loop, the first pop up day will be held at Officeworks Coburg on 6 April 2024 and will collect and recycle household batteries and other tech items including computers, video equipment, games consoles, cameras, printers, hard drives, phones, ink and toner cartridges.

Officeworks first partnered with Close the Loop in 2003, receiving one of the company's first ever cartridge recycling boxes. Since then, Officeworks has collected almost 15 million cartridges from 192 stores with a zero waste to landfill guarantee, making it one of Australia's longest running voluntary product stewardship programs.

Officeworks's Head of ESG and Corporate Affairs, Fiona Lawrie, says: "As part of Officeworks' People and Planet Positive commitment to recycle 17,000 tonnes by 2025, we are shifting our focus to more complex recycling challenges where we can make a meaningful difference for our core items that are currently difficult to recycle or don't have a sustainable end or extension-of-life solution."

"We're excited to evolve the Bring it Back program this year with the trial of People and Planet Positive recycling pop-up days, starting in Coburg. By lifting the lid on the recycling bin and engaging with our community face to face, we're hoping to educate and empower our customers to continue to make a positive difference for people and the planet in the communities where they live, work and create."

At the pop-up day, Close the Loop will be on hand to answer questions about the recycling process and share tips on how consumers can reuse pre-loved products. They will also have products on display that have been through the recycling process to provide insight into where materials go once they have been collected by Close the Loop.

Close the Loop CEO, Joe Foster says: "We know that Australians want to recycle and reuse where they can, and retailers want to work towards a circular economy. Our more than 20-year partnership with Officeworks has meant that Officeworks has been at the forefront of developing best in class sustainability solutions, which has resulted in keeping 14,796,345 ink and toner cartridges out of landfill. Close the Loop look forward to continuing to support Officeworks customers to correctly recycle their unwanted products."

Bring it Back launched in 2015 as part of Officeworks' commitment to help transition to a more circular economy and to repair, repurpose and recycle as many products as possible. It has since collected more than 9,000 tonnes of products, with Officeworks one of the first accredited retailers of B-cycle, Australia's government authorised battery stewardship scheme, which began in 2022.

From February 2024, Officeworks ceased battery collection in stores and those wishing to recycle batteries outside of the People and Planet Positive recycling pop-up days can visit the B-cycle website ([bcycle.com.au](http://bcycle.com.au)) for other convenient drop-off points.

Customers can continue to use the Bring it Back program in-store to recycle pens and markers, ink and toner cartridges, laptops, computers, tablets and technology accessories. Online trade-in options will remain, with Officeworks gift cards offered for high-value tech products.

The People and Planet Positive recycling pop up day will be held at Officeworks Coburg, 64 Gaffney St on Saturday 6th April from 10am - 3pm. Customers are reminded to wipe the data on their devices before recycling. In addition to collecting unwanted items to reuse and recycle, the event will showcase the journey of products after they've been recycled and have free face painting on site for children.

**– ENDS –**

For further information and imagery, please contact:

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#### **ABOUT OFFICEWORKS**

Established 30 years ago in Richmond, Victoria, Officeworks is committed to making bigger things happen for its customers, team, the community and stakeholders. It operates 171 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 and remote 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 more than 9,000 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.

#### **ABOUT CLOSE THE LOOP**

With locations across Australia, Europe, South Africa and the United States, Close the Loop is well-positioned within the circular economy. They assist brands to meet sustainability targets for packaging, and leverage global expertise across the manufacturing and recycling sectors to create innovative solutions for clients looking to be more sustainable, while also maintaining product protection and reducing food waste.

Close the Loop are active in the collection, sorting, reclaiming and reusing of materials that would otherwise go to landfill, with an independently-audited Zero Waste to Landfill Brand Promise for their recycling programs that provides transparency for participating partners.

From the recovery of tech products, print consumables and cosmetics, through to the reuse of toner and soft plastics for the creation of new products, Close the Loop is focused on building relationships with businesses, governments and communities to make positive impacts for now, and into the future.