

# Mobile phone recycling

## Mobile phone use in Australia

- There are over 30 million connected mobile phone in Australia.
- Australians upgrade or exchange their mobile phones every 18 to 24 months.
- About  $\frac{3}{4}$  (77%) of people choose to keep or give away their old mobile phones.
- 3 out 100 of people throw their old phone in the rubbish bin.



## People are holding onto their old mobile phones!

There are more than 23 million old and unused mobile phones stashed away in cupboards and drawers at home and work.

Top three reasons Australia's hold on to their mobile phone:

1. Keep a spare for backup;
2. May need it, still works or may have information on it; and
3. Going to recycle it.

If these unused mobiles were recycled the estimated greenhouse gas benefits would be the same as planting 111,000 trees or taking over 5,100 cars off the road!

The materials recovered could make 5.5 million aluminium cans, 27,000 plastic fence posts and replace the need to mine 15,600 tonnes of copper sulphide ore.

## Mobile phone recycling in Australia

In 2012/2013 MobileMuster collected 87 tonnes of mobile phone components including 1,003,471 handsets and batteries.

As of 30 June 2013 – 1.03 million kgs of mobile phone components have been collected and recycled since the program started in 1998. This includes 7.80 million batteries and handsets plus more than 539,000 kg of accessories.

# Mobile phone recycling

Mobile phones are not biodegradable and contain small amounts of potentially harmful substances that may harm our environment. By recycling phones we can help keep these harmful things out of our environment.

## Where can I recycle my old mobile phone?

MobileMuster has over 4,000 free public drop off points across Australia, including mobile phone retailers Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, 3 Mobile, Virgin Mobile, Crazy Johns, Fone Zone, Allphones, Dick Smith as well as participating local councils, Officeworks and Battery World stores.

You can post in your old mobiles using a free reply paid recycling satchel available from Australia Post outlets or by downloading a mailing label from [www.mobilemuster.com.au](http://www.mobilemuster.com.au)

More information: [www.mobilemuster.com.au](http://www.mobilemuster.com.au)



For more information on how you can help our environment, or to make some suggestions of your own, please go to [www.coolaustralia.org](http://www.coolaustralia.org)