



**Backpacker Operators  
Alliance of Victoria**

# TOP 15 THINGS BACKPACKERS CAN DO TO BE “GREEN”

As an industry, we need to take advantage of the unique opportunity that we have to communicate environmentally responsible travel to the thousands of travellers who visit us from across the globe each year.

Based on the list of ‘ten things to do’ from *An Inconvenient Truth* here is a list of “fifteen things that backpackers can do” to reduce their impact on the environment. We aim to reduce the environmental impact not only of our BOAV members, but also of their guests.

1. Reduce, reuse, recycle
2. Say ‘No’ to plastic bags and food packaging, use refillable drink bottles
3. “Don’t be a tosser – bin your butts!” - don’t litter, especially cigarette butts
4. Keep showers to less than 4 minutes and turn off the tap when washing in the sink and brushing your teeth
5. Turn off lights, heaters & all electrical devices when not in use including TVs if the room is empty
6. Don’t overfill kettle / or leave oven on and turn off the tap when rinsing your vegetables
7. Wear warm clothes if you are cold rather than over-using the heater
8. Don’t overcharge phones, cameras or ipods overnight and ensure power points are turned off when not in use
9. Share your laundry cycle with others, wash in cold water, hang clothes out and avoid using dryers
10. Use phosphate free (biodegradable) soaps and laundry powders
11. Use more rail and public transport or car pool in hire cars
12. Choose Eco-Certified tourism products – look for the ECO logo
13. Use recyclable batteries

14. Take the opportunity to volunteer with CVA or participate in WOOFING and see some amazing places
15. Make your own food - don’t buy fast food, it’s cheaper, healthier and you avoid the packaging. Also try to buy locally as well, buying fruit and vegetables in season. When shopping look for the Australian made logo.

**SUGGESTED INCENTIVES FOR OPERATORS:**

1. Give out free “green” recyclable carry bags
2. Provide enough recycling and compost bins (for food waste) and label them clearly - what can / can’t you throw into a yellow bin? Composting – See if there is a co-operative that collects compost in your city or town
3. Provide/sell personal ashtrays <http://ecolad.com/ecom.asp?pg=products&grp=95>
4. Put timing and/or water saving devices in showers (water-saving shower head, clock, egg-timer etc)
5. Place reminders above sinks in bathrooms and kitchens regarding switching electrical appliances off after use
6. Install card activated lights in rooms that switch off automatically
7. Provide comprehensive info about METlink, Vline ([www.vline.com.au/discover](http://www.vline.com.au/discover)) and other public transport plus sell bulk discount weekly/10 packs on premises
8. Display eco-friendly products clearly and prominently
9. Sell local & socially responsible

- biodegradable products on site (e.g washing powder, detergents)
10. Make plenty of clothes lines available outside and inside premises
11. Encourage trading/handover corners in premises e.g. for old books/travel guides/electrical appliances/food etc

**TREADING LIGHTLY – A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION FOR TOURISM**

The tourism industry has joined forces with City of Melbourne, Metlink, Sustainability Victoria, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Parks Victoria to help visitors to Melbourne do their bit to make Melbourne a more sustainable destination.

The ‘Treading Lightly’ initiative gained traction when the tourism industry started discussing ways to help grow Melbourne as a more sustainable tourism destination. Destination Melbourne, the regional tourism organisation for Greater Melbourne and publishers of Melbourne’s Official Visitors Guide, realised that they could make a difference with support from key partners in the industry.

**10 TIPS FOR TREADING LIGHTLY:**

1. Explore Melbourne by foot and discover the series of online walking guides at [www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/walks](http://www.thatsmelbourne.com.au/walks)
2. Utilise public transport and jump on the free Melbourne City Tourist Shuttle or the free City Circle Tram
3. Hire a bike and explore the city sights on wheels
4. Visit Melbourne’s local markets and enjoy our seasonal produce
5. Enjoy a coffee in one of Melbourne’s many cafes rather than in a take-away cup



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6. Support accommodation properties with a green star rating
7. Spend a day or more in Melbourne's great outdoors with Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA).
8. Save water by keeping your showers short, to less than 4 minutes
9. Recycle your visitor brochures and tourist guides
10. Pick up a copy of Melbourne's Sustainable Building map at the Melbourne Visitor's Centre and discover more about the city's sustainable buildings.



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