



Sussex County
School Plastic Film Recycling Challenge – “It’s in the Bag!”
November 15, 2017 – April 15, 2018

Contact:

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For the fifth year, the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA), in conjunction with local municipalities took part in a plastic film and bags collection program for participating Sussex County schools. The SCMUA and Municipal Recycling Coordinators strive to reinvigorate school recycling awareness programs, by facilitating these recycling initiatives. The Sussex County School Plastic Film Recycling Challenge - “It’s in the Bag!” is sponsored by the [Trex Company](#), and focuses on collecting clean and dry recyclable plastic film in order to keep it out of landfills; instilling school pride. Each participating school receives an award made of Trex materials. The Challenge started November 15, 2017 ([America Recycles Day](#)) and ended April 15, 2018 in honor of [Earth Day](#).

Trex Company is the world’s largest manufacturer of high performance wood-alternative decking and railings, reusing polyethylene plastic from a variety of common household items such as plastic grocery and retail bags, case overwraps, sandwich/bread bags, newspaper sleeves and dry cleaning bags to create composite products that offer a superior alternative to wood and an environmentally responsible choice to consumers. One of the largest recyclers of plastic in the U.S., Trex uses more than 1.5 billion plastic bags to make its eco-friendly, wood-alternative outdoor living products each year. A standard 16-foot Trex board contains recycled material from approximately 2,250 plastic bags.

The 2017-18 Trex Challenge resulted in over **2,883 pounds of plastic film** being collected by local Sussex County schools!

2017 –18 participating Sussex County schools include:

- ❖ Cedar Mountain Primary School, Vernon Township
- ❖ Glen Meadow Middle School, Vernon
- ❖ Halsted Middle School, Newton
- ❖ Long Pond School, Andover Township
- ❖ Ogdensburg School, Ogdensburg
- ❖ Pope John Regional High School, Sparta*

(* Recipient of a Trex Bench!)

Schools collect the clean and dry plastic film, reported the monthly collection amounts to Trex and delivered the plastic material to participating [Trex Retailers](#) . In Sussex County, those retailers are Stop-N-Shop in Sparta, Weiss Stores in Franklin and Newton, and Acme in Wantage and Vernon.

While the Trex School Challenge contest dates are November 15, 2017 – April 15, 2018, anyone can “Do their part” to reduce the amount of plastic film being thrown away by bringing the above listed items to participating retailers *every time* they shop. **Plastic film “thrown away” in Sussex County ends up in the Landfill.** Instead of going into the Landfill, the polyethylene plastic that the students collected will be converted into Trex composite decking, piping, automotive, lawn and garden products, crates, buckets and pallets.

*****NOTICE*****

Trex Community Challenge - <http://www.trex.com/recycling/recycling-programs/>
Local organizations, clubs, Troops and colleges can also participate in the Trex Community Challenge by collecting clean and dry plastic film items, including:

- plastic grocery & department store bags
- pellet bags
- newspaper sleeves
- dry-cleaning bags
- packaging air pillows
- stretch film (no saran wrap)
- water bottle case wrap
- toilet paper/paper towel over wrap
- bread bag / cereal bags
- LDPE/HDPE film

Each “Team” can collect 500 pounds of plastic film in a 6-month time period and deliver the film to the respective retailer, in order to properly track their progress. Trex will provide promotional material and recycling collection bins. Trex will donate a bench made of composite lumber to the community group that completes the [Trex Community Challenge](#).

To learn more about the importance of recycling plastic film, please visit: <http://waste360.com/paper-glass-plastic-aluminum/profiles-garbage-plastic-film>