



Sussex County
School Plastic Film Recycling Challenge – “It’s in the Bag!”
November 15, 2019 – April 15, 2020

Contact:

Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority
34 South Route 94
Lafayette, New Jersey 07848
Attn: Reenee Casapulla
973-579-6998 Ext 107
Email: rcasapulla@scmua.org



For the seventh 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 will receive an award made of Trex materials. The Challenge started November 15, 2019, ([America Recycles Day](#)) and ended on April 22, 2020 in honor of Earth Day ([Earth Day](#)). <http://www.earthday.org/>

Schools collect the clean and dry plastic film, reported the monthly collection amounts to Trex and delivered the plastic material to participating [Trex Retailers](#). <https://s7d4.scene7.com/is/content/Trex/trex-participating-film-bag-recycling-partners-usapdf.pdf> In Sussex County, those retailers are Stop-N-Shop in Sparta, Weiss Stores in Franklin and Newton, and Acme in Wantage and Vernon.

The Trex Company, based in Winchester, VA, is the country’s largest manufacturer of wood alternative decking and railing products. Trex decking boards are made of 95% recycled content recycled plastic film and waste wood shavings. These raw materials come from recovered plastic grocery bag, plastic film and waste wood fiber from hardwood flooring and cabinet manufacturers.

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.

The 2019-20 Trex Challenge resulted in over **3,235 pounds of plastic film** being collected by local Sussex County schools!

2019 –20 participating Sussex County schools include:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ❖ Halsted Middle School, Newton | Hamburg School |
| ❖ Glen Meadow Middle School | Long Pond School |
| ❖ Kittatinny 7th & 8 th grades | Ogdensburg School |
| ❖ SC Technical School | Hardyston Twp Middle School |
| ❖ Pope John Regional HS | Florence M Burd School |
| ❖ Franklin Borough School | Vernon Twp High School |

While the Trex School Challenge contest dates are November 15, 2019 – April 22, 2020, 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.** The average amount of plastic film generated is 30.77 pounds per person, with about 2.7% of total municipal solid waste being landfilled. A very small percentage is also recycled; in 2015 only 12.8% of plastic items were recycled (2015 U.S. EPA estimate). Plastic film that is recycled is made into new products including plastic lumber, piping, automotive, lawn and garden products, crates, buckets and pallets.

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