



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Sussex County
School Plastic Film Recycling Challenge
November 15, 2014 – April 22, 2015

Contact:

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The Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority announces the:

[Sussex County School Plastic Film Recycling Challenge](#)

The Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA) in conjunction with local municipalities, are taking part in a plastic film and bags collection program for participating Sussex County schools, to help promote the importance of proper waste disposal and recycling. 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](#) sponsored by the [Trex Company](#), focuses on collecting clean and dry recyclable plastic film in order to keep it out of landfills, and instilling school pride. Participating schools compete within the county to recycle the most plastic film, and the winning school is awarded a Trex bench. Each participating school receives an award made of Trex materials. The Challenge started on November 15th, ([America Recycles Day](#)) and ends on April 22, 2015 ([Earth Day](#)).

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.

Participating Sussex County schools include:

Frankford Township School, Frankford
Helen Morgan School, Sparta
Halsted Middle School, Newton
Ogdensburg School, Ogdensburg
Pope John Regional High School, Sparta

Participating schools collect the clean and dry plastic film, report the monthly collection amounts to Trex and deliver the plastic material to participating Trex retailers. In Sussex County, those retailers are Stop-N-Shop in Sparta and A&P in Wantage.

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If you know a student, teacher, or staff member from any of the schools, then **you too** can participate by giving them the clean and dry plastic film items you have for their collection program, 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

It is important to note that the participating schools need to collect the plastic and deliver the film to the respective retailer, in order to properly track their progress for the Sussex County School Plastic Film Recycling Challenge.

"This challenge is an excellent way of promoting less trash in our daily lives, encouraging more recycling, and is a highly effective educational opportunity for our students", said Reenee Casapulla, SCMUA Recycling Coordinator. "It is a natural fit for the SCMUA and Municipal Recycling Coordinators to work together in developing school programs that highlight the core concepts of recycling awareness, integral to providing a sustainable future for Sussex County."

While the Challenge contest dates are November 15, 2014 – April 22, 2015, 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 2012 only 11.5% of plastic film items were recycled (2012 [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: <http://waste360.com/paper-glass-plastic-aluminum/profiles-garbage-plastic-film>

Information about Sussex County School Plastic Film Recycling Challenge can be found at the SCMUA website www.scmua.org.

PLASTIC BAG, SACK AND WRAP RECYCLING RATE CHART*



Source: Waste 360 * Excludes trash bags