

Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge

Wyckoff Junior Environmental Commissioner Project

Lauren Markarian

Background

- The Trex Plastic Film Recycling Challenge is a plastic film collection that takes place in a designated town for a six-month period
- **Goal: collect 500 lbs of plastic film (equates to about 40,500 plastic bags!!)**
- Prize → A high-performance composite bench made from recycled plastic will be donated to our community from Trex



Don't Toss That Plastic Bag In The Garbage - Recycle Right!

➤ Our Goals

- To reduce the amount of plastic being buried in landfills since landfills play a major role in the destruction of our environment
- Educate people why recycling is a better choice to increase participation and enthusiasm in the challenge
- Show how plastic waste can find a second life in the form of high-performance Trex composite decking
- Help prevent littering

➤ Why?

- Plastic bags/film are detrimental to the environment
- Takes a very long time to biodegrade and pollutes the soil
- Encourage good recycling habits and motivate residents to recycle more



Communicate, Collect, Consolidate

→ **Communicate** - How was the challenge promoted?

- ◆ Flyers
- ◆ Wyckoff Township e-newsletter
- ◆ Social Media - Wyckoff Moms, Wyckoffians, Library, and Township Facebook pages
- ◆ Websites - Wyckoff Environmental Commission

→ **Collect** - Where were collection sites set up?

- ◆ Wyckoff Public Library
- ◆ Wyckoff Recycling Center
- ◆ Volunteers picked up plastic from collection sites & delivered to Mrs. Fischer's home or my home for weighing and recording. Any plastic that did not meet the criteria for being recyclable was removed.

→ **Consolidate** - What did we do with all of this plastic?

- ◆ Transferred plastic to Stop & Shop. Trex picked up plastic and took it to their recycling center to transform it into a Trex bench.

Wyckoff Environmental Commission
Plastic Bag and Film Recycling
Challenge

Collection sites:
Wyckoff Public Library
Wyckoff Recycling Center

Collection dates:
September 1, 2021 - February 28, 2022

Goal:
Collect at least 500 lbs of plastic bags and film

Prize: A premium-composite Trex Bench made from recycled grocery bags and other plastic film



NexTrex

Social Media Posts - Spreading Awareness in Town!

September 7 · 🌍

Meet the Carr Family. [Krista Carr](#) and her husband brought their son Milo to the library to drop off their plastic bags and film for the recycling challenge. Milo especially loves the story of the Lorax; he enjoys talking about how his family can help the Earth. Thank you, Carr Family for being a part of the solution, not part of the pollution!

Please continue to collect and drop off your plastic bags and film at the Library or the Recycling Center. You don't realize just how much plastic film you have and use until you actually collect it. Each day we get a step closer to our 500-pound goal while keeping all of this plastic out of our landfills!!! --- Lauren Markarian



**Wyckoff Environmental Commission
Plastic Bag and Film Recycling
Challenge**

Collection sites:
Wyckoff Public Library
Wyckoff Recycling Center

Collection dates:
September 5, 2021 - February 28, 2022

Goal:

Collect at least 500 lbs of plastic bags and film

Prize: A premium-composite Trex Bench made from recycled grocery bags and other plastic film



NextTrex

Update from Lauren Markarian – TREX Recycling Challenge

I am happy to report that as a community we have already collected 512 pounds of plastic bags and film in the month of September. That's a lot of plastic for one month!!!! At this rate, we could collect over 3,000 pounds in a six-month period!! Thank you to everyone for keeping this plastic out of the garbage and landfills. Please continue dropping off your plastic to one of our convenient locations through February 28, 2022: Wyckoff Library or Recycling Center.

As a friendly reminder, certain types of plastic cannot be recycled. Generally, if plastic stretches when you pull it with your fingers, it's ok to recycle it. For more information please refer to <https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate>.

This photo shows some plastics that are NOT recyclable.



Social Media Posts - Spreading Awareness in Town!

September 18 - 🌱
TODAY IS WYCKOFF DAY AT THE YMCA
Stop by the Environmental Commission table to learn how you can help Wyckoff become more environmentally friendly. There will be games & prizes. In just 17 days, we have collected 200 lbs of plastic bags and film. Stop by and bring your plastic with you or drop it off at one of our other convenient locations in town (Library & Recycling Center). We are on our way to reaching our goal-thank you for helping keep this plastic out of our landfills!!
Lauren Markarian



November 9 at 5:30 PM - 🌱
From my daughter Lauren
THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the TREX Recycling Challenge. As a community, I am proud to report that we have far exceeded our goal by collecting and sending 1,200 pounds of plastic film to TREX (in only 2 1/2 months!). More importantly, we kept this plastic out of our landfills. Thank you for supporting my project. Please keep recycling so we can leave a better planet for future generations.
🌱 Lauren Markarian

Thank You for Participating in the

TREX PLASTIC FILM RECYCLING CHALLENGE



We have more than doubled our 500-pound goal and will be earning a Trex Bench!

**Last day of collection at the
Library and Recycling Center:
November 15, 2021**

Please keep recycling your plastic film!

You can bring your plastic film to the Wyckoff Shoprite,
Wyckoff Stop and Shop, or the North Haledon Fresh Grocer



We Want Your Plastic!!!!

See your plastic waste turn from this:



To this!!



Be a part of the solution, not part of the pollution!!!



WHAT CAN YOU RECYCLE?



All plastic film recycled needs to be clean, dry, and free of food residue

Drop off any of the above plastic items in the collection bins at the Wyckoff Public Library or the Wyckoff Recycling Center. Help us reach our goal of 500 lbs of plastic!



HOW DOES THE TREX RECYCLING PROGRAM BENEFIT WYCKOFF?

Encourages good recycling habits and motivate residents to recycle more



Teaches our community how plastic waste can find a second life in the form of high-performance Trex composite decking



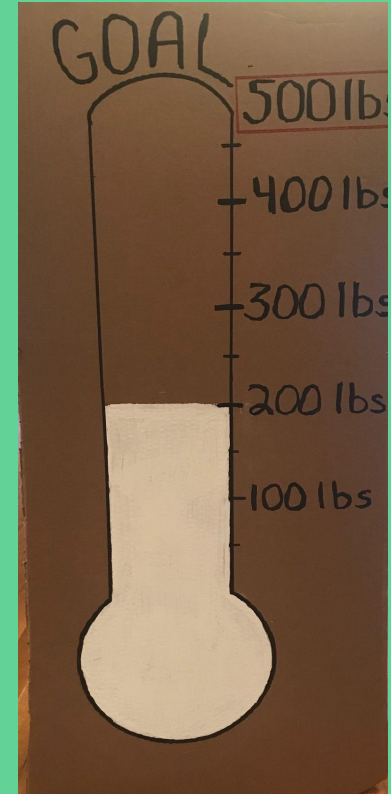
Informative Posters to Promote the Event

Community Response Was Overwhelming

Thanks to our extremely conscientious Wyckoff residents, we:

- Far exceeded our goal of collecting 500 pounds of plastic film in a six-month period.
- Collected approximately 1,300 pounds of plastic film in only 2 ½ months!
- Earned a Trex Bench for the Wyckoff community!

**Total on Day 16 of
collection**



Thank You!



This project was completed as part of the Wyckoff Environmental Commission Junior Commissioner program. Junior Commissioner Lauren Markarian, a student at Ramapo High School in the class of 2023, took the project to its final stages assisting on the successful virtual public outreach campaign.

December 2021

“One person’s trash is another person’s treasure!”

Sources

<https://nihrecord.nih.gov/2018/04/20/earth-day-event-addresses-plastic-film-pollution>

<https://recycle.trex.com/view/educate>

<https://www.ehn.org/plastic-environmental-impact-2501923191/particle-7>

