

Preserving the environment through integrated recovery and disposal.

## 2019 Plastic Film Recycling Challenge

### What is the Plastic Film Recycling Challenge?

The Plastic Film Recycling Challenge is sponsored by the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority and Trex Company in an effort to promote and educate youth and the community on **proper recycling** of plastic grocery bags and other plastic film items, **which cannot be recycled through regular curbside recycling programs**. The initiative focuses on collecting clean, dry plastic film in order to keep it out of our region's landfill.

### Who can participate?

The Plastic Film Recycling Challenge is open to all public and private k-12 school buildings located in Oneida or Herkimer Counties. The entire school building must participate in the challenge. Schools will be divided into two categories: Elementary School and Middle/High School.

### What is the criteria for evaluation?

The winning school in each category will be based on the highest amount of plastic film collected per capita.

A school volunteer weighs and keeps record of the amount of plastic film collected each week. (On average, a 30-gallon trash bag will hold about 650 plastic bags and weigh 8 lbs.) The school volunteer will also take the collected plastic film to a participating retailer for proper recycling (locations in your area will be provided).

The Authority will provide your school with collection boxes for plastic film. The collected plastic film can be weighed using the nurse's office scale. Collection totals must be recorded to Jamie Tuttle, Authority Recycling Educator, by December 20, 2019.

## What can be recycled?

- Grocery bags
- Bread bags
- Case Overwrap
- Dry Cleaning bags
- Newspaper Sleeves
- Ice bags
- Wood pellet bags
- Ziploc and other reclosable bags
- Produce bags
- Bubble wrap
- Salt bags
- Cereal bags

**\*\*All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.\*\***



## When is the Plastic Film Recycling Challenge?

The Plastic Film Recycling Challenge will take place at your school from **November 15<sup>th</sup> (America Recycles Day) through December 20<sup>th</sup>**. Your school can begin collection on November 15<sup>th</sup> (America Recycles Day).

Trex Company also offers its own Plastic Film Recycling Challenge from November 15<sup>th</sup> (America Recycles Day) – April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day). If your school would like to register for the Trex Company Challenge in addition to the Authority's Challenge, please register directly with Trex at [www.trex.com/recyclingprograms/](http://www.trex.com/recyclingprograms/).

Schools that wish to participate in the Authority's challenge must register by **November 1, 2019**.



## What will schools receive if they participate?

One school building from each category will win the grand prize. All participating schools will receive a framed certificate for participating.

The winning Elementary School will be awarded presentations from the Utica “Zoomobile.” The Utica Zoo will bring four animals in its “Zoomobile” to the school and give presentations to all of the grade levels! The presentations will be scheduled on a day convenient for the winning school building.

The winning Middle/High School will be awarded appearances from KISS FM DJs. The DJs set up a booth and perform a live remote radio broadcast from your school which will involve playing music and interviewing students. This could take place during lunch periods or any other time during the day that is convenient.

*\*\*Schools that also register with Trex Company’s Challenge which ends on April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day) will receive a participation award. First-place winners receive a Trex bench made from Trex decking boards.\*\**

## How to register for the Challenge:

To compete in the Plastic Film Recycling Challenge, schools must register as a participant by **November 1, 2019**. Schools can register by returning the registration form to Jamie Tuttle, Recycling Educator, via e-mail at [jamiet@ohswa.org](mailto:jamiet@ohswa.org), fax at (315) 733-2305, or by mailing the form to Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, 1600 Genesee Street, Utica, NY 13502.

The goal of this challenge is to increase student awareness and involvement in waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and environmental awareness through collaboration and partnership with participating schools. **No schools “lose” in this challenge.** All participants win through their achievements in practicing proper recycling procedures.

## Ways to organize the Plastic Film Recycling Challenge:

Teachers, staff, students, and/or parents can help with organizing the challenge for the entire school building. This involves educating students and faculty about proper plastic film recycling, promoting awareness of the Challenge and helping out during the weeks of the Challenge. In addition, the Authority’s Recycling Educator can assist schools with the preparation for the Challenge as well as answer any questions the school has regarding plastic film recycling. Sign up early!



## Here are some fun ideas that can help you involve your entire school building in the competition, as well as help your school achieve success!

- Make the Plastic Film Recycling Challenge a competition between grade levels.
- Develop daily announcements for promoting plastic film recycling for the days leading up to the Challenge.
- Design bulletin boards or post notices in the halls to promote the Plastic Film Recycling Challenge.
- If you would like a template for a send-home memo or to use in a school newsletter, please contact Jamie Tuttle.

### Additional Questions?

Please visit [www.ohswa.org](http://www.ohswa.org) or call Jamie Tuttle, the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's Recycling Educator, at (315) 733-1224 ext. 2300 or email at [jamiet@ohswa.org](mailto:jamiet@ohswa.org).



# Plastic Film Recycling Challenge Registration Form

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Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ Student Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

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Contact Person Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

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School Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please indicate whether you will also register for Trex Company's Plastic Film Recycling Contest:

YES (circle one) NO

Forms may be submitted via mail, fax or email to:

Jamie Tuttle, Recycling Educator  
Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority  
1600 Genesee Street  
Utica, NY 13502

Fax: (315) 733-2305

Email: [jamiet@ohswa.org](mailto:jamiet@ohswa.org)

**Registration Deadline:** November 1, 2019

**Winners Notified:** January 6, 2020

**Questions:** Jamie Tuttle, Recycling Educator  
(315) 733-1224 ext. 2300 or [jamiet@ohswa.org](mailto:jamiet@ohswa.org)

