

Show Your Heart: Treasure the Earth By: Teri Salmons, Creation Care Ministry

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
Matthew 6:21



Being instruments of our planet’s healing is part of Creation Care’s mission. This year we have added a focus on tackling one huge problem drowning the earth — single-use plastic.

Howard County picks up our recyclables, but they don’t pick up everything! Most people don’t know what to do with all the plastic film that can’t be recycled, so it ends up in landfills, waters and streams, and then eventually oceans.

Did you know that even though plastic littering has decreased overall, the problem continues because “single-use plastic film” continues to grow, and GROW? It is the 2nd most frequently found type of litter on our planet!

The Creation Care Ministry has created a "Kids Care Team" to help fight the “War on Waste.” Rite-13 has been invited to collaborate with us in the “NexTrex Challenge” and St. John’s Parish Day School is already on board!

The challenge is easy to implement. Beginning on Earth Day, April 22nd, three collection bins will be set up in three different locations on campus: the **Historic Church, All Saints Hall, and the Parish Day School.**

We ask you to save qualifying plastic film (see page 2) and turn it into a bin each week. Kids Care Teams will weigh and record the items dropped off before they’re delivered to drop-off points in Ellicott City. Totals collected will be shared with Creation Care and reported to Trex.

Trex mixes TONS of plastic film with sawdust, heats it to 600 degrees, and turns it into a composite material to make decks and outdoor furniture. Single-use plastic trash becomes something to TREASURE!

As an added bonus, if we can collect 1,000 pounds of plastic film in one year, St. John’s will earn an outdoor bench from the Trex Company. Repurposing litter is more important than earning the bench, but how wonderful it will be to have a reminder of our stewardship efforts.

To get a head start on collecting plastic film, see page 2 of this document.

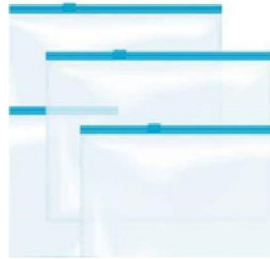
To help the Kids Care Team or to ask any questions, write to: CreationCare@stjohnsec.org

APPROVED ITEMS FOR NEXTREX® RECYCLING PROGRAM

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



grocery bags



Ziploc® and other resealable
food storage bags



air pillows



bread bags



produce bags



bubble wrap



case overwrap



product wrap



plastic shipping envelopes
(labels removed)



dry cleaning bags



retail bags



newspaper sleeves

Collection boxes will be available
in the Historic Church, in
All Saints Hall, and in the
Parish Day School.



electronic wrap

DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS IN NEXTREX® PROGRAMS



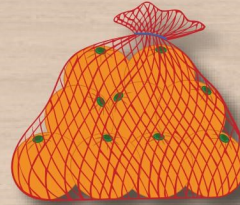
FROZEN
FOOD BAGS



CANDY BAR
WRAPPERS



CHIP
BAGS



NET OR MESH
PRODUCE BAGS



PET FOOD
BAGS

OR THESE

Degradable/
compostable bags
or film packaging

Pre-washed salad
mix bags

Hot dog or meat
wrap packaging

Six-pack rings

PPE- Gloves, masks,
or protective wear

Pool covers

Lamination film

Silage and hay bags

Vinyl shower curtains
or tablecloths

Bedding or linen
packaging

Shiny, crinkly films
like floral wrap

Backyard ice rinks

DON'T SEE YOUR ITEM ON THE LIST?

Try these tests to see if your plastic is acceptable or not.

See if the package will stretch when
you pull it.

If yes, it can be included. If it tears like
paper, then please don't put it in the bin.

Is the package shiny or does it make a
crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand?

If yes, do NOT recycle in the
NexTrex® bin.

Have more questions? Want to get involved with Creation Care at St. John's?

Contact CreationCare@stjohnsec.org

Stay tuned to Friday's *Blessings* each week to stay up to date on this initiative!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN I RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS AND FILM IF THEY...

...are colored plastic?

YES, the color does not affect the recycling process.

...tear like paper?

NO, please do not include, as they are not currently accepted in film/bag recycling bins.

...stretch when I pull it apart with both hands?

YES, this is the correct type of plastic to recycle. If it doesn't stretch or it tears like paper, please throw it in the trash.

...are thicker, stiff plastics for linens and beddings (including anything with a real zipper)?

NO, they are not the kind of plastic recyclers can use in their processes.

...have a paper label or tape stuck on?

YES, but labels, tape and adhesive strips should be removed if possible. You can simply cut off of the label as the integrity of the bag isn't important to the recycler.

...are pet food bags?

NO, this plastic is not recyclable.

...are very shiny (like floral wrap) and make a loud crinkly sound when crumpled?

NO, this plastic film is not recyclable.

...are boat wrap?

NO, because its intended use is to protect boats outside, which means it could contain barriers or be contaminated with moisture and debris that are problematic in the recycling process.

...have a shiny metal look like a chip bag or candy wrappers?

NO, this plastic film is not recyclable.

...have this NexTrex® label?

YES, brands and retailers are using this label to let consumers know that the plastic film package is recyclable.

...are labeled degradable AND recyclable?

NO, recyclers can't risk using degradable plastics in new items so these items are not recyclable.

...contains other materials or is dirty or wet?

NO, plastic film must be clean and dry and the right type in order for it to be recycled. Please remove all other materials like tape, paper receipts, food residue and crumbs, and crinkly or rigid plastics (bottles and tubs). These contaminants can ruin the quality of the plastic and may result in it not being recycled.



NexTrex®

trex.com/recycling 1-800-Buy-Trex