

What can we do about plastics?



There are currently recycling bins for plastic bags and wraps near the entryways at most groceries and some department stores.

These stores are collecting many forms of plastic (bags, wraps, mailers—see the poster or video below for more items) that do not go into our curbside recycling carts. In turn, they are selling these items by the truckload to manufacturers (like Trex) that use them to make composite lumber which is used in durable items such as decking, railings and benches.

So, putting them in a collection bin is one sure thing you can do to reduce plastic waste and help create a sustainable product.

Another Option?

Mankato Area Zero Waste decided to publicize this type of collection and expand the number of bins available in public places. We also decided to reach out to businesses and institutions that daily have large amounts of pallet wrap and plastic packaging arriving at their back doors. We provide a collection bin from Trex, give them collecting bags if they need them and we can transport full bags to stores that are selling them to Trex, if they want that help.

After 5 months our program in Mankato, North Mankato and Lake Crystal has 7 more bins available to the public and another 18 bins inside businesses, a church, a library, and a clinic.

What can you do? If you wish to start collecting a specific range of plastics (see recycle.trex.com) with your community or business, email us at mankato-zero-waste@gmail.com and we'll help you get started.

The 3-minute video below will give you an overview.