

What can we do about plastics?



There are currently recycling bins like this 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 — enlarge the poster for more items) that do not go into our curbside recycling carts. In turn, they are selling these items by the truck load to plants (like Trex) that use them to make composite lumber for durable items such as decking, railings and benches.

So, putting them in a collection bin is one sure thing you can do to create useable goods from throwaway plastic.

Another Option?

Mankato Area Zero Waste decided to publicize this 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 2 ½ years our program in Mankato, North Mankato and Lake Crystal have collected 21,040 pounds of plastic film and earned 13 benches!

Public collection bins are available at:

Lake Crystal: ACE Hardware and GRACE Thrift

North Mankato: Taylor Library

Mankato: Target, Kohl's, Walmart, Hy-Vee (both), Cub (both), VINE, Mankato City Hall lobby