

RECYCLING AGRICULTURAL PLASTICS PROJECT

Life Cycle Stewardship of Agricultural Plastics

Wyoming County

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Agricultural plastics of many types are being recycled in Wyoming County!

The recycling program is run as a joint effort of the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Cornell Cooperative Extension Association (CCE), and the New York State Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP), based at Cornell University. Other local agencies and agribusinesses are providing know-how and equipment. Major funding to operate the program is currently from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund administered by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

RAPP partners work with the agricultural community to teach best management practices to prepare plastics for recycling. When at least 1000 pounds of plastic (or other agreed on quantity) is ready for collection and recycling, RAPP partners will provide a mobile "BigFoot" baler to compact the used plastic into a dense square bale. With farm staff loading the baler, and RAPP staff or partners operating it, a full 1000-lb bale can be made in about half an hour. With experience and additional training, farm staff are also being trained to operate the baler.

Finished bales are stored at central locations in various counties until a container load is ready to move to market. Plastic sidewalk pavers, plastic lumber, oil and other products are being manufactured from agricultural plastics recycled from NYS farms.

RAPP strives to close the loop by recycling old products into new within our geographic region. To help sustain this and other recycling programs, remember to *Buy Recycled!*

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Farmers, landscapers and others who use film or rigid plastics in growing or processing agricultural crops (including horticultural, maple, etc.) are invited to participate in the Recycling Agricultural Plastics Project (RAPP). Here's how:

- Contact RAPP staff or partners to express your interest or to learn more.
- Work with RAPP staff and partners to develop an individualized best management plan for handling your plastics for recycling.
- Follow these Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- When at least 1000 lbs (or other agreed on quantity) are ready to recycle, contact your county SWCD to arrange for use of the plastics baler.
- Provide farm labor to load the baler.
All helpers must first be trained and must sign a Trainee Liability Release.

CONTACTS

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