



**Sustainable Jersey for Schools
Non-Mandated Materials Recycling
Submission
George L. Catrambone Elementary
School**

Non-Mandated Material(s) Submitted:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Ink Cartridges
- Plastic Bags and Film

1. Describe the research behind establishment of the non-mandated material recycling initiative, including school personnel involved. Describe any coordination with the local green team.

Material 1: Crayons – “More than a half-million pounds of crayons are discarded every year, turning into a waxy sludge that clogs our landfills and never biodegrades. The Crayon Initiative collects donated crayons from restaurants, schools and homes across the country, then melts them down and remanufactures them, reducing waste. Better yet, the recycled crayons are distributed to art programs at children’s hospitals across the U.S., brightening the lives of young patients during their stay” (The Crayon Initiative). At GLC we are proud to participate in this program as some of these recycled crayons are given to children in our hometown hospital and children’s hospital at Monmouth Medical Center. Every student and teacher is involved in this initiative as collection bins are placed outside of classrooms at each grade level. Students collect them monthly and package them to be ready to ship to the crayon initiative. To date we have collected over 85lbs of broken used crayons that are ready to be sent.

Material 2: Markers – “**Crayola** and schools across North America are banding together to help kids understand the importance of their role in protecting the environment. That’s why we launched **Crayola** ColorCycle. Through this initiative, students in K-12 schools across the continental United States and parts of Canada can collect and repurpose used **Crayola** markers. Crayola is committed to making sure plastic markers stay out of landfills — so much so that they’re willing to recycle any markers, not just their own. ColorCycle, Crayola’s recycling program, is one of the company’s many “green” initiatives aimed at teaching children to be more conscious of their impact on the planet. The program takes used markers from schools (K – 12) at the end of the school year and converts them into liquid fuel. It’s a great program for a product that is typically hard to recycle.” (Crayola Color Cycle Program). Much in the same as the crayon recycling we are proud to participate in the Colorcycle program as these markers collected are turned into fuel how cool! Every student and teacher is involved in this initiative as marker collection bins are placed outside of classrooms at each grade level. Students



**Sustainable Jersey for Schools
Non-Mandated Materials Recycling
Submission
George L. Catrambone Elementary
School**

collect them monthly and package them to be ready to ship to the CRAYOLA color cycle program. To date we have collected over 34lbs of dried used markers that are ready to be sent.

Material 3: Ink Cartridges – Teachers and school go through a lot of ink and toner to supply students with necessary materials needed for their learning and activities. To help reduce our footprint we send each empty cartridge back to the ink company to be recycled and refilled. All of the ink we purchase comes in these containers. Even the boxes they are shipped in are used to reship them back to the company. We use approximately 200 cartridges each year all are recycled.

Material 4: Plastic Bags and Film – Single Use plastic bags and films are a large contribution to landfills, and they do not biodegrade. These bags are used for approximately 10 minutes before thrown away. We partnered with the TREX program to reduce the amount of single use plastic bags and film that end up in the landfills. We collect bags and wrappings in the school that families and students drop off and donate daily. Each month we take those collections and weigh the plastic. It then gets sent to the TREX company through our local friendly HomeDepot. The Trex Company uses the plastic to make their decking materials. What a win for the environment.

2. Describe the costs associated with the recycling initiative and how the collection program came into existence. How was the account established with the collection company and who is responsible if the current lead leaves? What costs are associated with the collection?

Material 1: Crayons – There is no financial cost to this initiative just the huge impact it makes on the environment and helping lift the spirits of sick children in hospitals around the country. The crayons are boxed in both boxes the company sends us as well as recycled cardboard boxes from the school we drop them off at local collection centers like ACMoore. We found this initiative online and introduced it to our green team students who got the ball rolling and spread it around the school. Before we donated them to the program we used to melt them down and make new crayons on our own but very small scale. This initiative give us the opportunity to recycle so many more. The students lead up this program and if it does discontinue we will look for new ways to continue the recycling.

Material 2: Markers – There is only a small cost of shipping to send the used dry markers to The Crayola Color Cycle program. This small cost in paid for by our PTO and fundraising programs. We found this initiative online and introduced it to our green team students who



**Sustainable Jersey for Schools
Non-Mandated Materials Recycling
Submission
George L. Catrambone Elementary
School**

got the ball rolling and spread it around the school. The students and green team lead up this program and if it does discontinue we will look for new ways to continue the recycling.

Material 3: Ink Cartridges - There is no financial cost to this initiative just the huge impact it makes on the environment preventing these cartridges from going to landfills. They come with return shipping labels making them easy to affix and send back at no cost. This initiative started from the Lexmark company and is one we were glad to participate in. We purchase all of our cartridges that are specifically made to be recycled this way. If the program was to discontinue we would look into other ways to recycle them. This is led by our school technology program and our teacher representative and if one of them leaves the green team will take over the recycled shipping.

Material 4: Plastic Bags - There is no financial cost to this initiative just the huge impact it makes on the environment preventing the plastic from ending up in landfills. Trex Company takes care of the expense of transporting the plastic by loading it on the return to facility trucks after deliveries are made to local Home Depot locations.

3. Describe how the material is collected and its end market (outside the school district). How many collection bins are needed? Where is the material collected/stored? If working with a municipal green team, who is responsible for transportation of the material?

Material 1: Crayons - They crayons are collected for the Crayon Initiative for children in hospitals around the US. We collect them in boxes the company sends us as well as recycled paper boxes and store them until delivery in the classrooms. Collection bins are located in each hallway around the school. Due to CoVid restrictions we have 1 collection site. While we are not shipping them out this year they will be saved and sent out once restrictions are lifted.

Material 2: Markers - The markers are collected for the Crayola Color Cycle. Through this initiative, students in K-12 schools across the continental United States and parts of Canada can collect and re-purpose used Crayola markers. Just as we collect the crayons, we collect the markers in recycled paper boxes and store them until shipping in the classrooms. Collection bins are located in each hallway around the school. Due to CoVid restrictions we have 1 collection site. While we are not shipping them out this year they will be saved and sent out once restrictions are lifted.



**Sustainable Jersey for Schools
Non-Mandated Materials Recycling
Submission
George L. Catrambone Elementary
School**

Material 3: **Ink Cartridges** - Old ink cartridges are collected as teachers need new ones and mailed back to the company to be recycled and reused for the next cycle or cartridges. Shipping labels are included in the boxes. They are repackaged and dropped off in the main office. They are later picked up by UPS when they arrive for a drop off and returned to the company.

Material 4: **Plastic Bag And Film** : The bags and film are collected in bins located throughout the school as well as outside the building for those who are not in the building this year due to pandemic restrictions and opting for virtual learning. The bags are collected in bins provided by the TREX Company. They are emptied and weighed monthly to track total weighed amounts.

4. List the materials used to inform the school community (teachers, staff, parents, students) about the non-mandated materials recycling initiative, how they were used and who they were distributed to. Add/remove rows from the chart if necessary.

<u>Non-Mandated Material Recycled</u>	<u>Name of Educational & Promotional Materials</u>	<u>Description of Distribution</u>
Crayons	Posters and flyers hung around the building, Announcements, Postings on social media	Visual around the building, Social Media Announcements in school/ and announcements during lunch
Markers	Posters and flyers hung around the building, Announcements, Postings on social media	Visual around the building, Social Media Announcements in school/ and announcements during lunch
Ink Cartridges	Emails and verbal reminders are sent to teachers	Emails and verbal reminders are sent to teachers
Plastic Bags and Films	Posters and flyers hung around the building and in the lunchroom, Announcements, Postings on social media and sent out on flyers via our school sharing platform that connects all of our families. This is due to the lack of paper being passed to students in person as well as a way to reach those at home during this virtual time.	Visual around the building, Social Media Announcements in school/ and announcements during lunch



**Sustainable Jersey for Schools
Non-Mandated Materials Recycling
Submission
George L. Catrambone Elementary
School**

5. Describe how the non-mandated materials recycling initiative is evaluated. How is the weight of material collected and who is it sent to? How is this information tracked over time? How is the effectiveness of the program assessed in relation to removing these materials from the waste stream? Have presentations been made during school board meetings to update administrators on the collection initiative? Complete the chart below tracking your tonnage over time (from the most recent date you have data available). Add/remove rows from the chart if necessary.

Complete a description of the above and provide information on the amount collected below

	TONNAGE/AMOUNT RECYCLED				
Non-Mandated Material Recycled	<u>Year 1</u> <u>2017</u>	<u>Year 2</u> <u>2018</u>	<u>Year 3</u> <u>2019</u>	<u>Year 4</u> <u>2020</u>	<u>Year 5</u> <u>2021</u>
Crayons			28lbs	34lbs	
Markers			53lbs	85lbs	
Ink Cartridges		Approx. 250	Approx. 150	Approx. 85	
TREX Plastic Bags and Film Collections				Apr 2019- Apr 2020 522.32 lbs	Apr 2020- Present 288.72 lbs