

It All Adds Up!

Since the TerraCycle program started as a Winnequah School PTO initiative in 2012, more than 4,500 pounds has been diverted from our local landfill—that's more than TWO TONS of waste recycled or repurposed right here in Monona!

For each item boxed and shipped, Winnequah PTO earns a small cash reward which has added up over the years to over \$3,400!

As of March 2019, Winnequah PTO TerraCycle has diverted from the landfill (numbers are approximate):

95,000 chip bags

83,700 granola/energy bar wrappers

39,600 juice straws + pouches

33,000 squeezable snack pouches + caps

Styrofoam collected at the Monona Public Library is used by Uniek, Inc., a local company that specializes in home décor.

Eco-Action Tuesdays

Eco-Action Tuesdays is a program series based on the “ripple effect”.

Beginning in our own backyard, we explore sustainability issues through hands-on, entertaining presentations on the fourth Tuesday, March–October.

Discover how the eco-actions you take at home—and share with others—can ripple throughout the community, creating a healthier, more sustainable place.

mymonona.com/163/Eco-Action-Tuesdays

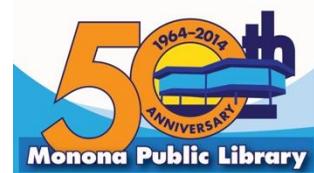
Eco-Action Tuesdays are sponsored by:



and



With in-kind support from:



Monona Public Library
1000 Nichols Road
Monona, WI 53716
(608) 222-6127
mononlibrary.org



TerraCycle & Styrofoam Recycling Challenge

Why Should I Accept the TerraCycle & Styrofoam Recycling Challenge?

Plastics take up to 25–30% of landfill space. Styrofoam takes at least *500 years* to decompose. By using the TerraCycle and Styrofoam collection centers at the Monona Public Library, common household items that would otherwise be thrown away are kept out of the landfill and are instead recycled or upcycled into new things.

What Is TerraCycle?

TerraCycle is a recycling program for common household items that would otherwise be thrown away. Items are collected and shipped off to be recycled or upcycled into new things.

Monona Public Library serves as a site to collect items that are not recyclable through the municipal waste stream, yet can be TerraCycled. Proceeds benefit students at Winnequah Elementary School.

See these sites for more information:

<https://www.mononagroves.org/we/terracycle.cfm>

<https://www.facebook.com/winnequahterracycle>

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-US/>

How Can I TerraCycle?

TerraCycle collection bins are located in the café on the ground floor of Monona Public Library.

Collect these items—any size, any brand—and bring them to the library:

- 3 Cereal bags
- 3 Salty snack bags
- 3 Aluminum drink pouch and straw
- 3 Squeezable fruit or veggie snacks pouch and cap
- 3 Foil-lined granola or energy bar wrappers (no candy wrappers)
- 3 Oral care items: used toothpaste tubes and caps, dental floss cases and manual toothbrushes
- 3 Personal care items (if not recyclable)
- 3 Cleaner packaging (if not recyclable)
- 3 Instrument strings

Brand-specific items to collect:

- 3 Entenmann's Little Bites packages
- 3 PUR and Brita water filters and pitchers

Volunteer Opportunity! TerraCycle Box and Ship

Every 4th Sunday from 1:30–3:30, volunteers—all ages welcome!—meet at Monona Public Library café to:

- Pack items into boxes
- Tape boxes closed
- Affix shipping labels
- Weigh boxes
- Track how much is collected

Come for 20 minutes or 2 hours—every minute you help is appreciated!

What To Do With Styrofoam?

The Styrofoam collection bin is located at the Nichols Road entrance of the Monona Public Library. Styrofoam collected at the Library is used by Uniek, Inc., a local company that specializes in home décor.

Styrofoam takes at least 500 years to decompose! (See The Environmental Impacts of Styrofoam online: <https://bit.ly/2cXpOMA>.)

There are many types of packing materials that may seem similar to Styrofoam.

- Only bring to Monona Library material that is *rigid* and will *snap* when it is broken
 - If the material is bendable, check to see if it can be recycled:
 - Is there is a #1–7 triangle recycle symbol on it? Put it in your home recycle bin.
 - No recyclable triangle symbol? Put it in your home trash bin.
- Packing peanuts are *not accepted* at the Monona Public Library; they are however, gladly accepted at Studio Paran, a glassblowing workshop at 2051 Winnebago Street, Madison, WI 53704 (608-242-1111).

Take the TerraCycle & Styrofoam Recycling Challenge!

- 1. There are two fantastic ways to recycle items you never thought possible.** One is to TerraCycle items. Where is the TerraCycle collection place at Monona Library? The other is Styrofoam. Where is the Styrofoam collection bin at the library?
- 2. TerraCycle: Super-Recycling!** Collect and recycle common household items that would otherwise be thrown in the trash. List 10 items in your home that you can TerraCycle.
- 3. TerraCycle Set Up.** Find a bin to collect household items to TerraCycle. Think carefully every time you are about to toss out a used package. Can it be TerraCycled? What sort of bin did you choose? Was it big enough to hold everything you collected in one month?
- 4. Tally and Sort.** At the end of the month, bring your TerraCycle container to Monona Library to sort items into various collection bins. As you sort, count how many items you TerraCycled. How many items were there? What different categories did you collect?
- 5. Many Hands Make Light Work!** Further support the TerraCycle cause by helping to box and ship items back to the manufacturer. Meet other volunteers at the Library café every 4th Sunday at 1:30 pm. Record the date(s) you helped volunteers to box and ship materials collected.
- 6. Got Styrofoam?** Collect cups, takeout containers, meat trays, egg cartons, and foam packing material. Maybe you previously put all that in the trash: now it can be brought to the Library! How many pieces of Styrofoam did you keep out of the landfill? What types of containers did you collect?
- 7. Library Styrofoam Collection Dos and Don'ts.** Do rinse food containers clean. Why? Don't bring bendable foam; the foam you leave at the library must *snap* when it breaks. Where should bendable foam go instead? Don't bring packing peanuts. Where should those go instead?