



The Making gARTbage Contest at the Essex County Environmental Center is an opportunity to creatively take non-recyclable materials and other waste items and turn them into exciting art. We hope the projects help create discussion and highlight the concerning abundance of these waste items to encourage positive change for the environment.

Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr.



**Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive
And the Board of County Commissioners
Invite You to Participate in the**

Making g'ART'bage Contest!

A program of the Essex County Environmental Center

This g'ART'bage contest takes a creative approach to protecting our planet from plastic pollution by pulling plastics from the waste-stream and transforming them into works of public art. Contest participants are challenged to be thoughtful and creative in crafting art made from single-use plastic garbage (non-recyclable plastics). Team and individual projects are welcome. Projects must be crafted to withstand the elements, as they may be showcased in an outdoor setting on the grounds of the Essex County Environmental Center.

Enter in one of four categories:

Grades PreK-2nd; Grades 3rd-5th; Grades 6th-8th & Grades 9th-12th

Winning entrees will be displayed during the week of Earth Day!

Grand prizes are awarded to entries that place 1st in all categories; 2nd and 3rd place entries will be recognized with a certificate and a small gift from the Environmental Center.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 9, 2025

**Project Drop-off: Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 10:30am to 1:30pm
at the Essex County Environmental Center, 621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ**

**Pre-register [Online Here](#) or by contacting the Environmental Center
at 973-228-8776 or email tbutler@parks.essexcountynj.org**



COUNTY OF ESSEX
Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
621-B EAGLE ROCK AVENUE, ROSELAND, NEW JERSEY 07068
Phone: 973.228.8776
www.essexcountynj.org



PUTTING ESSEX COUNTY FIRST

Making g‘ART’bage Contest

Rules and Information

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 9, 2025

Project Drop-off: Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 10:30am to 1:30pm
at the Essex County Environmental Center, 621B Eagle Rock Avenue, Roseland, NJ

1. Art pieces must **be made of 90% single-use plastic garbage (non-recyclable plastic material)**; 10% of the project can include adhesives, decorative items, or other forms of creative arts and crafts. Paint, crayons, clay, markers, etc. are encouraged to transform the plastic into fine works of art! Feel free to be creative with the materials you use. The more non-recyclable products included the better—let’s get non-recyclable plastics and other slow biodegrading materials out of the waste stream!

2. **Categories are as follows:**

PreK-2nd grades | 3rd -5th grades | 6th-8th grades | 9th -12th grades

Projects may be submitted by an individual or a team with a maximum of five participants.

3. **Judging** will be done by a group of local environmental professionals.

4. **The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness about plastic pollution and remove single-use plastics and other non-recyclable materials from the waste stream** using these very items, i.e., garbage as a medium, to create outdoor artwork for the public to enjoy! Although often aesthetically beautiful, the works point to the concerning abundance of non-recyclable plastics and other non/slow biodegrading objects in our environment.

○ Visit your local municipality’s website to determine what items are recyclable and non-recyclable and create your masterpiece guided by the information you learn about local recycling rules!

○ **Use of household hazardous waste materials and electronics prohibited!**

This includes batteries of any kind, incandescent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, containers holding hazardous waste materials, etc. Please visit the Essex County Utilities Authority (ECUA) website at www.ecuanj.com to learn more.

5. Projects may be displayed outside on the grounds of the Environmental Center, so please keep the weather in mind when building your creation. The more weather resistant, the longer they will last on display.

6. Each entry must be submitted with an index card and short description of your creation, noting the solid waste and recycling research findings leading to the development of the art piece, along with the entrant or group name, age, grade, and school (if applicable).

7. Projects must be picked up by June 7th or they will become the property of the Environmental Center to remain on display or be discarded.