

Important Note: This activity was developed for the original Green Lunchroom Challenge program, a voluntary pledge program for K-12 schools to improve the sustainability of their food service



operations. The project was coordinated by the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center Technical Assistance Program](#) with funding from US EPA Region 5.

The following page(s) represent the content of this activity as it appeared on the original project web site, complete with available points and instructions for submitting documentation. **The project is no longer funded and as of June 2018 schools may no longer submit activity documentation to earn points and recognition as described.** The activity is presented for your information to guide your organization's sustainability efforts.

If your school or district implements the suggested activity and wishes to share its experiences, please email [Joy Scrogum](#). Your story may be incorporated into a blog post on this web site, the main ISTC site, or shared on social media to foster networking and inspiration among peer institutions.

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Replace black garbage bags with clear bags

Activity Category: Zero Waste Lunchrooms

Activity: Replace black garbage bags with clear bags

Rationale: As you work towards improving the facility's collection procedures, constant monitoring will help evaluate the progress of the implemented procedures and policies. Clear bags help provide a quick visual assessment of materials in the landfill/recycling stream. This change will allow for evaluation without having to physically hand sort materials every time.

Activity Description: Replace black garbage bags with clear bags within the Challenge period.

Earn Challenge Points (100 points): Submit a picture of the new clear trash bags being used as well as a 1 page summary of the observations gleaned from the switch (in PDF or Word format). Email this to Joy Scrogum at jscrogum@illinois.edu.

Resources:

 [Clear trash bags reduce 31% waste](#)



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