



2016 Moorestown Upcycling Art Challenge

The Sustainable Moorestown Arts Committee is excited to announce our **2016 Moorestown Upcycling Art Challenge**, a community-wide juried art exhibit to see who can create the most innovative upcycled artwork incorporating plastic caps and lids.

Who Can Enter:

- Contestants must be 7th through 12th grade students attending a school within Moorestown, NJ.

Important Dates:

- Submission Dates – March 16 to May 13
- Exhibit Date / Awards Ceremony – June 4 (District Art Show / Moorestown Day)

How You'll Enter:

- Show off your best upcycling project!
 - An entry form will appear on the: <http://sustainablemoorestown.org> beginning March 16, 2016 and submissions will be continued to be collected until **May 13, 2016** You'll need to fill in your full name, address and email, a photo of the artwork, as well as a short description of your upcycled art. All artwork should be original in concept and design. Select works will be displayed.
- On the back of all artwork should appear a label indicating which way is up, the artist's name and the piece's title.
- All artwork must be wired and ready for hanging unless 3-dimensional.
- The artwork will be displayed and awards will be presented at the annual MTPS District Art Show sponsored by MoorArts to be held at the Moorestown Recreation Center on **June 4, 2016** (which is also Moorestown Day). The awards reception to be held at 1:00pm.



Plastic Bottle Top Portrait by Mary Ellen Croteau
www.maryellencroteau.net
Bottom is detail of nose area.

Rules & Guidelines:

- One entry per person. Entry must incorporate caps and lids either as a medium or tool. Additional materials are allowed but should be limited so the focus is on the primary element of bottle caps.
- Judging will be based on innovative and imaginative use of materials, how well the entry captures the upcycling movement and how fully the artist's intention or concept is presented and realized (categories including 2-D, 3-D, most creative use of materials, people's choice, etc.).
- The awards will be selected by judges appointed by the Sustainable Moorestown Arts Committee. Their decision is final.
- All submissions will be photographed and displayed on the Sustainable Moorestown Facebook page.
- Sponsors are not responsible for error, omission, interruption, deletion, defect, delay in operations or transmission, theft or destruction or unauthorized access to or alterations of entry materials. Sponsors are also not responsible for any damage to submitted work.

For samples of innovative uses of caps, lids and other recyclable items see:

<http://www.inspirationgreen.com/art-from-bottle-tops.html>

Why This Challenge...

What to do with plastic caps and lids when recycling is not an option?

The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, first signed into law in 1987 requires all citizens of New Jersey to recycle. Many plastic items will contain the following marking identifying their makeup.

SPI Resin Identification Code ¹	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Type of Resin Content	PET	HDPE	Vinyl	LDPE	PP	PS	OTHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ PET - Polyethylene Terephthalate▪ HDPE - High-density Polyethylene	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ LDPE - Low-density Polyethylene▪ PP - Polypropylene			<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ PS - Polystyrene▪ Other - Mixed Plastics			

Yet many items are not recyclable or if recyclable, there currently no economic market for the item. Just because a container or lid bears a recycling symbol doesn't mean it can be economically recycled and in fact may be considered a contaminant in the recycling of other more popular items. This is because a plastic bottle may be made from a different kind of plastic than the cap. For example, plastic bottles are typically made from Polyethylene terephthalate (PET), or plastic #1, while lids or caps are made from polypropylene (PP), or plastic #5². So, why should it matter to a recycler if the bottle is a #1 and the cap is a #5? They're both plastic right? Why is a cap or lid considered a contaminant?

It all comes down to a difference in melting points for the two types of plastic. There is a difference of nearly 160 degrees Fahrenheit between the #1 and #5³. If a #5 cap gets mixed in with #2 bottles, the entire batch may be ruined because of un-melted plastic in the mix. If caps and lids are present in the recycled plastic product produced by a recycling facility, the product will have a reduced value because of contamination. For this reason, residents in Burlington County are discouraged from putting plastic caps and lids in their recycling containers.

Caps and lids have become a serious environmental problem as well. The Beach Environmental Awareness Campaign Hawaii (B.E.A.C.H.) found that "plastic bottle caps are one of the top 10 items found during marine debris beach clean-ups and are the second most littered item after cigarette butts"⁴.

¹ USEPA

² Earth911.com

³ Earth911.com

⁴ Earth911.com