



## Market Development Grant Success Story

# Next Generation Films

### Background

Next Generation Films, Inc., located in Lexington and in business since 1994, manufactures blown plastic film for the food industry, custom plastic packaging for major package shippers and flexible plastic packaging for a variety of applications and customers. The company currently employs 450 full-time staff. Its primary supply of polymer raw material is virgin from a third-party supplier or recycled pellets from plant production.

### Challenge

Under its net-zero recycling initiative, Next Generation Films has acquired machinery that allows recycling and reuse of nearly 100 percent of scrap film. In 2015, the company explored expansion to meet the growth and demand for its products. The three areas of expansion were current food and other film business, logistic operations and recycling operations. Next Generation Films needed additional recycling equipment to meet their expanding recycling initiatives while accommodating increased production.

### Solution

The market development grant from Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, along with matching funds from the company, were used to purchase equipment that allows the company to recycle nearly 100 percent of the scrap plastic film generated during production and convert it back into polymer feedstock for future film production. The new equipment can process 3-5 million pounds of plastic per year and allows Next Generation Films to continue to recycle nearly all of its scrap film while increasing production.

### Resources

This success story is a good example of how Ohio EPA's market development grants can help increase the use of recycling technologies, strengthen the infrastructure for handling and processing recyclables and develop more markets for recycled products. Materials targeted for market development grants include plastics, glass, paper, metals, construction and demolition debris, organics and other materials. The grants require at least a 100 percent matching investment from the applicant. Applicants must be sponsored by an eligible governmental agency who will serve as the grant applicant and a pass-through agency for documenting and receiving funds. For this project, the Village of Lexington served as the grant applicant and supported Next Generation Films project at the local level.

For more information about Ohio EPA's market development grants, visit [epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/Grants.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/Grants.aspx) or contact Chet Chaney at (614) 728-0043.



*New scrap film recycling equipment at Next Generation Films.*

### Project Specifics

#### Location

Next Generation Films, Inc.  
230 Industrial Drive  
Lexington, OH 44904

#### Details

Purchased additional polyethylene plastic film recycling equipment that converts scrap film back into polyethylene pellets for plastic film feedstock

#### Cost

\$700,000 (\$450,000 from the company and \$250,000 from Ohio EPA's market development grant)

#### Environmental Impacts

Increases scrap film recycling capacity by nearly 3-5 million pounds per year

#### Economic Impacts

\$2-3 million saved annually in material costs for generating polyethylene pellets from scrap film