Expanded Poly Styrene (EPS) & Styrofoam Collection Pilot Project


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Myths about EPS

Styrofoam and EPS are the same thing...

The word *Styrofoam™* is often used to describe expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam; however, *'Styrofoam'* is actually a trademarked term of Dow Chemical for extruded polystyrene. **EPS foam** is the correct term for any form of **expanded polystyrene**.
Myths about EPS

It will never decompose...

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a Styrofoam cup will decompose in approximately 50 years and a Styrofoam buoy in about 80 years.

However... it does not biodegrade

EPS foam breaks into small pieces, and like plastic will cause problems in the digestive tracks of animals unlucky enough to ingest it.

Foam is lightweight, yet bulky, especially packaging foam and takes up a lot of space in the landfill.
It is not feasible to recycle....

It depends...
Less than 1% of the waste stream according to the EPA
Not economically viable due to light weight
No market for EPS – Better to Ban
Unscientific Study
Madison County EPS Collection Pilot
Project Set Up

- Background meetings: Dart, Eastern Region foam marketer, other foam recyclers
- Secured local outlet for foam collected during pilot
- Visited programs with densifiers:
  - Rochester - heat densifier
  - Ft. Drum - cold compaction unit
Logistics

* Start with Madison County only
* December 2015 – September 2016
* Local Advertising and Press Release
* Collected at main landfill primarily
Styrofoam Recycling

Madison County Residents just in time for Christmas gift giving!

**Styrofoam Recycling starts December 29th!**

Pack up all your clean white Styrofoam packing material, along with clean white Styrofoam egg and take out cartons, make sure all tape and labels are removed and then place your clean white Styrofoam in clear plastic bags.

Bring to the Madison County landfill on Buyea Rd in the Town of Lincoln Tuesday through Saturday 7-3.

Please note the following are not accepted!!!! Styrofoam cups, packing peanuts, meat trays and soiled or food contaminated Styrofoam containers!

Questions? Call the Madison County Recycling Hotline at 1-800-721-2208.

- Earth Day, 2016
- Added transfer stations
- Added some other Counties
- Tracked where people were from
- Amount collected
It came from...
Every town in the County
Plus....
Oneida County
Otsego County
Onondaga County
Project Results

- Huge interest; Board of Supervisors support, local hospital, other Counties
- 282 one hundred pound bags of EPS and Styrofoam
- Plus loose coolers, large sheets
- One semi every two weeks
- Approximately 7,000 pounds so far
Cold Densifier for EPS and Styrofoam

Feed conveyor
Shredder
Blower
Compactor
System
Benefits

Diversion of EPS from landfill

Provides new site for work crew

Community good will

Marketable commodity
Markets

Brokers & Dart link to EPS recyclers

Pick up range 10,000 – 60,000 pounds

Approximately 15 cents per pound
Going Forward

• Taking Bids on Densifiers

• Setting Up On-Site EPS collection and storage area

• Partnering with other collectors to market