



New York State Association for Reduction, Reuse & Recycling Inc.

January, 2016

at the Madison County Landfill

Six Month Styrofoam Recycling Pilot Project Begins

**By MARY BARTLETT
RECYCLING COORDINATOR**

The wait is over - Styrofoam recycling is here in Madison County!!

Beginning Dec. 29, 2015, the Department of Solid Waste began a pilot project collecting Styrofoam, which will run until June 30, 2016.

Residents wishing to recycle their Expanded Poly Styrene (EPS) foam #6 - commonly called "Styrofoam" are asked to bring it to the main landfill on Buyea Road in the Town of Lincoln in clear plastic bags with all tape and labels removed. This includes Styrofoam packaging material, clean foam egg cartons and take out cartons. Acceptable foam must be clean and white!

The collection site will be set up across from the ReUse Store on the East side of Buyea Rd. EPS foam will be accepted during regular op-

erating hours Tuesday - Friday.

"It is exciting that this program is starting up just in time for Christmas cleanup", said Mary Bartlett, Recycling Coordinator.

The program prohibits foam cups, packing peanuts, meat trays, soiled containers and packing materials made of materials other than Styrofoam, due to contamination.

It takes 50 years for EPS foam to break down, but since polystyrene is not biodegradable, it never really leaves the environment. "That's why we have been working diligently to find a practical way to recycle Styrofoam," said James Zecca, Director of the Dept. of Solid Waste.

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 our landfills.

"Styrofoam is quite valuable when properly prepared for recycling, yet difficult (to handle) since it needs to be densified for shipping to a qualified recycler," added Zecca.

Madison County has an outlet for Styrofoam for the next six months while the pilot is underway. In June, 2016 Dept. of Solid Waste staff will decide about the future of Styrofoam recycling in Madison County.

"We want to see how much foam there is in the waste stream and whether it makes sense to invest in a densifier of our own." added Bartlett.

For more information contact Mary Bartlett, Recycling Coordinator, Madison County Dept. of Solid Waste 1-800-721-2208.