

Foodservice Packaging Grant Helps Madison County Expand Foam Polystyrene Collection

Madison County Department of Solid Waste and Sanitation has collected over five tons of recycled foam polystyrene in the past two years. And a \$42,925 grant from the Foodservice Packaging Institute's Foam Recycling Coalition will allow the department to expand its foam polystyrene recycling to include collection at its four transfer stations.

"Recycling foam polystyrene is much more convenient for our residents now and has increased the volume we collect," said James Zecca, director of the Solid Waste Department.

The program, begun almost two years ago, collects what is commonly known as Styrofoam™ at transfer stations in the towns of Cazenovia, Hamilton, Lincoln and Sullivan. Items collected include white EPS6 packaging foam, white foam polystyrene cups and take-out food containers, and white egg cartons.

The material is put through a densifying machine at the county landfill and sold to vendors to make such products as picture frames, crown moldings and door trim.



ABOVE: Jim Zecca, director, Madison County Department of Solid Waste and Sanitation, on the right, hands foam polystyrene to Steve Araki, solid waste aide, who feeds it into the densifier. The material was collected at the county's four transfer stations.



LEFT: Once the foam polystyrene is broken up, compressed and extruded through the machine, blocks are loaded onto pallets to be shipped to companies who use it to make consumer products.