

Media Release



For Immediate Release

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Foam Polystyrene recycling machine comes to Mid-Island communities

August 27, 2010 – Nanaimo, B.C. – Foam polystyrene in Nanaimo will now be headed for a second life.

The Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, in partnership with Mid Island Co-op, Canadian Plastics Industry Association and Merlin Plastics is launching a new mobile service to recycle householders' foam polystyrene cushion packaging and foam food service containers. The Mid Island Co-op has been instrumental in allowing this opportunity to be available to residents of Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. This is part of the Canadian Plastics Industry Association's commitment to working with others to help expand plastics recycling.

The new mobile machine coming to Vancouver Island communities to recycle foam polystyrene is the Greenmax cold compactor. This is the first of these machines to be operating in BC. Greenmax compresses the foam polystyrene at a ratio of 50:1, into dense blocks that are easy to store and make shipping far more economical and environmentally friendly. The compressed blocks of foam polystyrene will be shipped to Merlin Plastics in Delta B.C., to be processed into pellets, which are used to manufacture new products. The re-processed plastic will be sent to a manufacturer in the U.S. to be made into electrical wire reels and components. There are many markets for foam

polystyrene recycled this way, such as for use as picture frame wall decor products and architectural crown and cornice moulding.

Initially, the mobile unit will be based at the NRE depot in Nanaimo where foam polystyrene can be dropped off during normal operational hours. In conjunction with Mid Island Co-op, special events will be scheduled to create additional collection opportunities. Mid Island Co-op will not be accepting foam polystyrene at times other than these special events. Plans include the machine traveling around Vancouver Island so that other community recycling programs can expand to include foam polystyrene.

Cushion foam polystyrene is commonly found as the protective packaging for electronics, appliances and furniture. Foam food service containers are typically egg cartons, meat trays, foam cups, bowls, plates and clamshells. Foam polystyrene food service containers have excellent insulation properties, are 2-3 times less expensive and use less energy than alternatives materials and are recyclable when processed this way. Residents should make sure to remove labels, stickers, tape, and rinse the food containers.

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About the partnership:

This program to recycle clean foam polystyrene packaging materials is a partnership between the NRE, Mid Island Co-op and CPIA.

Nanaimo Recycling Exchange Society will be the operator.

Mid Island Co-op is the signature sponsor for funding.

CPIA has provided funding, technical support and advice.

Merlin Plastics Supply will be the primary materials processor, and has provided advice and technical support.

About the partners:

Mid Island Co-op

Located on Vancouver Island, BC, Mid Island Co-op has been in business since 1959 and was created by local citizens as an alternative way to provide themselves with goods and services. We currently have more than 32,000 members throughout our territory; spanning from North Cowichan to Whisky Creek.

Mid Island Co-op has ten retail petroleum and Co-op Convenience Store locations, four commercial Cardlocks, as well as the Co-op Centre on Bowen Road. In order to serve our members better, we are continuing to expand and develop Mid Island Co-op throughout the Mid Vancouver Island Region.

All of our profits stay in the communities we serve through re-investment in the Co-op, equity allocations to our member-owners and through contributions to community organizations and local youth.

For more information see www.midisland.coop

CPIA

The Canadian Plastics Industry Association is a member driven organization working with all stakeholders to increase diversion of plastics from landfill. The Canadian plastics industry is one of our country's largest manufacturing employers and contributes very significantly to Canada's GDP. There are approximately 3400 firms directly engaged in plastics manufacturing in Canada employing over 100,000 Canadians. The industry tends to be very vertically integrated, producing a substantial employment multiplier effect. Further, the industry is a source of innovation for advanced industries such as communications, alternative energy and medical.

For more information see www.plastics.ca

Merlin Plastics

Merlin Plastics Supply Inc. was established in 1987 as a processor and marketer of industrial plastic scrap. The original operation employed two people and operated out of a 2,000 square foot plant with minimal equipment. Today Merlin processes: PE film scrap - printed and non-printed; industrial injection moulded plastic pails; post-consumer blow moulding, high density polyethylene; as well as PET (soft drink containers) and some industrial scrap from commodity resin to engineering grade.

Merlin has the production capability of 80 million pounds a year, and is continually investigating new production processes and opportunities. We currently employ over 85 employees and foresee the potential for future growth.

For more information see www.merlinplastics.com

Nanaimo Recycling Exchange

The services and community programs provided by the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange Society (NRE) have established our organization as a valuable community asset and a recognized authority in the region on the issues of *environmental protection* and *waste management*. People refer to our organization as a "one stop" drop-off facility. This is because over 40 classes of materials are accepted at the depot. There are approximately 5,000 people that use our facility each month.

For more info see www.recycling.bc.ca

Media Advisory

Photo Opportunity

'Foam polystyrene recycling machine comes to mid-Island communities

A media event including a demonstration of the new foam polystyrene compression machine will take place:

Date: Friday, August 27
Time: Event starts at noon
**Location: Mid Island Co-op Gas Bar site,
2517 Bowen Road,
Nanaimo, B.C.**

Representatives from Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Mid Island Co-op, the Canadian Plastics Industry Association and Merlin Plastics will be available for interviews.

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