



## Press Release

### Valley Region Scores a Recycling First

Foam polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam™) is making a jump from garbage to recycling bags.

November 19<sup>th</sup> marked the official launch of a unique partnership between Valley Waste-Resource Management, Scotia Recycling, CKF Inc., and the Resource Recovery Fund Board (RRFB) to reduce waste. Valley Waste-Resource Management Authority Chairman Mark Pearl said, “We believe strongly in being leaders in solid waste management, and always strive to do more to reduce our environmental impact.”

The efforts paid off with the first curbside collection recycling program for polystyrene in the province. The foam has always proved difficult to recycle as its light weight has made transportation to worldwide markets unfeasible. A new densifier machine at Scotia Recycling’s Kentville site, shreds and compresses polystyrene, greatly reducing the over 90% air composition.

These densified blocks can then be shipped and remade into products like decorative mouldings and picture frames.

The new program means residents will place polystyrene foam protective packaging, plates, trays, egg cartons and cups in with their other containers in the blue bag. Foam peanuts, foundation insulation and spray foam are however not recyclable through the program.

To ensure the product is suitable for recycling, residents and businesses are asked to remove absorbent meat pads and plastic wrap and to rinse any food residue from foam containers before placing them in the bag for recycling.

Pearl thanked all of the stakeholders that came together to make the program possible, including the funding support provided by the RRFB.

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