



NEWS RELEASE

St. Charles County Government

Department of Community Health and the Environment

Gil Copley, Director

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Recycle Works Centers Now Accept Styrofoam

St. Charles County, Missouri – Both St. Charles County Recycle Works centers are now accepting polystyrene foam, commonly called Styrofoam, for recycling, the Division of Environmental Health and Protection announced today.

The division is able to offer this free service with the help of EPC, Inc., the largest professional electronics recycler in Missouri. EPC received a grant from the St. Louis-Jefferson Solid Waste Management District to purchase a machine that compresses the foam into bricks that are one-sixteenth the size of the original material. The compressed foam will then be resold to manufacturers.

Styrofoam presents a special problem in landfills. The material is more than 98 percent air, thus taking up a large amount of space. It can take decades for a 25-pound brick of foam to break down in a landfill. Additionally, if Styrofoam comes in contact with anything acidic, even lemon juice, it is reduced to styrene, a known neurotoxin and carcinogen.

“By accepting polystyrene foam at our recycling centers, we are not only extending the life of our landfills, but we are also helping to keep toxic chemicals out of our environment,” said Pieter Sheehan, director of the Division of Environmental Health and Protection.

In addition to Styrofoam, both facilities also continue to accept a wide range of other recyclables. For a list of accepted materials, call (636) 949-7415 or visit www.scchealth.org/es. Recycle Works Central is located at 60 Triad South Drive in St. Charles. Recycle Works West is located at 2110 E. Pitman Avenue in Wentzville. Both centers are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The St. Charles County Department of Community Health and the Environment is committed to the protection and enhancement of health and the quality of life for all members of our community. For more information, call (636) 949-7400 or visit www.scchealth.org.

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