


TO: HONORABLE MAYOR
 AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Kerrie Romanow

SUBJECT: EPS COLLECTION PILOT

DATE: June 21, 2013

Approved  Date 6/24/13

INFORMATION

To test the possibility of collecting clean expanded polystyrene (EPS) packaging for recycling, the Environmental Services Department is partnering with Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE) to conduct two pilot collection events in July and August in conjunction with regularly scheduled Neighborhood Clean-Ups (NCU).

While curbside collection of EPS has proven difficult over the years and was removed from the City's Recycle Plus program in 2010, an alternative could be to collect clean packaging EPS through the NCU program. This pilot would collect and recycle packaging foam such as blocks or sheets, but not peanuts or food ware EPS. The current three-year NCU cycle would allow residents the opportunity to recycle packaging foam in lieu of disposing it in the residential collection cart. In order to understand the logistics and cost impacts to the NCU program, a pilot program has been designed to gather information and evaluate the feasibility and participation in this type service.

The EPS Collection Pilot is scheduled to occur at two NCU events this summer. The services of the San José Conservation Corps (SJCC), GreenTeam of San José, GreenWaste Recovery, and Republic Services will be utilized to collect and recycle the packaging EPS dropped off by residents within the boundaries of the NCU area.

EPS Collection Pilot at Neighborhood Clean-Ups			
Date	Time	Council District	Neighborhood
July 27	8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	2, 7	Hellyer, Melody, Sernade, Claitor, San Ramon, River View, Great Oaks
August 24	8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.	1	San Tomas Aquino, Bucknall, Westmont

Required Resources

The City has arranged for the Recycle Plus haulers to deliver an additional 40 cubic yard collection bin for EPS at each of the NCU events. For added convenience and to increase collection points, the SJCC will provide carts at the various bin sites within the NCU area. The SJCC will pre-process the material from these carts to remove contaminants, place EPS into



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bags, and discard items that are not acceptable for recycling. Clean and bagged packaging EPS will be deposited by SJCC members into the collection bin provided by the Recycle Plus hauler. The bins will be transported to the Republic Services recycling facility where the contents will be un-bagged and loaded by Republic Services into a densification machine. Food ware EPS and packaging peanuts are not accepted at this facility and will not be collected for recycling.

Outreach

In order to notify eligible households about the EPS Collection Pilot, Code Enforcement staff will utilize the existing NCU outreach postcard to inform residents of the opportunity to include packaging EPS. In an effort to call attention to EPS collection, the postcard will utilize a new color on the front and back to distinguish it from the standard materials listed. The postcards will be mailed to approximately 3,000 homes in each NCU area approximately two weeks prior to the scheduled event date.

Costs

The extra costs to collect and process EPS are anticipated to be \$1,000 per event, depending on the amount collected. This will cover the extra labor involved in collection, transportation to the processing facility, and the unique handling requirements. A complete analysis will be performed after the Pilot to project the costs of incorporating these collections into the existing NCU program.

Future Implementation

This Pilot allows an opportunity to test the feasibility and resident participation in this type of approach to recycling packaging EPS. The staffing needs, processing requirements, and transportation logistics for future collections will be assessed as part of this Pilot with the SJCC and PBCE. If collection at NCU events is determined to be logistically feasible and financially viable, and if there is sufficient participation by residents, staff may propose adding it during the FY 2014-2015 budget process.

Coordination

This informational memorandum was coordinated with Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.

/s/

KERRIE ROMANOW

Director, Environmental Services

For questions please contact Jo Zientek, Deputy Director, Integrated Waste Management at (408) 535-8557.

