ecomaine

Owner Communities
Bridgton
Cape Elizabeth
Casco
Cumberland
Falmouth
Freeport
Gorham
Gray
Harrison
Hollis
Limington
Lyman
North Yarmouth
Ogunquit
Portland
Pownal
Scarborough
South Portland
Waterboro
Windham
Yarmouth

Associate Members
Baldwin
Hiram
Naples
Parsonsfield
Porter
Saco
Standish

Contract Members
Andover
Cornish
Eliot
Greenland, NH
Hampton, NH
Jay
Kittery
Limerick
Livermore Falls
Manchester
Monmouth
Newington, NH
North Haven
Old Orchard Beach
Poland
Readfield
Sanford
Stockton Springs
Wayne

June 4, 2013

Mr. Troy Moon
Solid Waste Manager
City of Portland
55 Portland Street
Portland, ME 04101

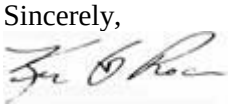
Dear Troy:

You inquired about what challenges we might be faced with by adding polystyrene foam to our single sort recycling program. I offer the following feedback regarding the challenges associated with recycling polystyrene foam:

- Shipping baled polystyrene foam material is very inefficient due to the weight and density. Baling and/or densification of the polystyrene foam could be a challenge and an added cost. You wouldn't want to ship this material very far to market.
- The marketability of recycling polystyrene foam materials is very limited. Markets would need to be identified and anticipated scrap revenues would need to be determined. Market specifications would also need to be researched to ensure that markets would be willing to accept some residue on the foam containers. There has been very little interest from potential buyers of polystyrene foam and this is a significant concern for the industry.
- We take plastic, metal and glass containers. There would need to be an extensive educational component with polystyrene foam to differentiate foam cups, foam peanuts, foam packaging, clamshells, etc.
- Unlike most of the other plastic, foam easily breaks apart and becomes difficult to manage when in tiny pieces. In comparison, most plastic containers stay intact even when squashed by a loader wheel.
- Sorting of small pieces of foam would be challenging in the MRF. In particular, foam peanuts and broken pieces of foam would go everywhere.
- Collection of polystyrene foam from the source is inefficient without significant compaction or densification.
- Additional equipment would be needed to process polystyrene foam.

This outlines our primary concerns with recycling polystyrene foam. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kevin H. Roche
General Manager

cc: John Morin

COMPARISON OF COSTS-
LOWEST COST POLYSTYRENE FOAM CONTAINERS VERSUS LOWEST COST ALTERNATIVES

	Polystrene Product (Lowest price, various suppliers)	Cost per unit	**Non-foam Product (Lowest price, various suppliers)**	Cost per unit	**Difference in Marginal Cost**
10 oz Cup	Foam – Dart Container 1000 ct $19.99	$0.020	Plastic- Dart Container 2500 ct $56.99	$0.023	**$0.003**
12 oz Cup	Foam – Dart Container 1000 ct $22.49	$0.022	Plastic- Dart Container 1000 ct $25.99	$0.026	**$0.004**
16 oz cup	Foam – Dart Container 1000 ct $32.49	$0.032	Plastic – Dart Container 1000 ct $35.94	$0.036	**$0.004**
12 oz Bowl	Foam – Dart Container 500 ct $17.49	$0.035	Plastic- Genpak 1000 ct $41.99	$0.042	**$0.007**
16 oz Bowl	Foam – Dart Container 500 ct $19.49	$0.039	Plastic - Genpak 1000 ct $69.99	$0.070	**$0.031**
6" Plate	Foam – Dart Container 1000 ct $29.99	$0.030	Paper - AJM 1000 ct $19.99	$0.020	**($0.010)**
9" Plate	Foam- Dart Container 500 ct $17.99	$0.036	Paper- AJM 1000 ct $25.87	$0.026	**($0.010)**
6" Hinge Container	Foam – Dart Container 500 ct $18.99	$0.038	Plastic 500 ct $31.99	$0.064	**$0.026**
9" Hinge Container	Foam – Dart Container 200 ct $14.49	$0.072	Plastic 200 ct $24.99	$0.125	**$0.053**