

Monaca to offer expanded polystyrene recycling

By Daveen Rae Kurutz
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MONACA — There will be one less material heading to landfills from the borough this month.

Borough officials have worked with NOVA Chemicals and Beaver County Waste Management Department to begin offering recycling options for Expanded Polystyrene in the borough.

Expanded Polystyrene, also known as EPS, is the white packaging foam used to protect computers, televisions and appliances. Coolers are also made of EPS.

"Monaca borough is proud to partner with NOVA Chemicals and Beaver County Waste Management Department in being the first municipality to participate in this exciting recycling program," borough Manager Mario Leone said. "Monaca borough is proud to be able to continue to lead the way in municipal sustainability."

Residents and businesses can't leave the foam out with curbside recycling. Instead, it can be dropped



Monaca borough Manager Mario Leone places a piece of recyclable packing foam in one of the borough's new drop-off points. [SUBMITTED]

off at a collection site. NOVA Chemicals then picks up the material and compresses it into large blocks. Those blocks are converted into plastic pellets that are used to make new items, including surf boards, yo-yos and picture frames.

The borough will have two collection points for the lightweight foam: the

borough building at 928 Pennsylvania Ave and Antoline Park at the intersection of Marshall Road and Jackson Avenue.

Leone called the move "a no-brainer."

"Promoting recycling, and a promoting great stewardship for our environment is a key sustainability principle for our borough," Leone

said. "EPS #6 has been a challenging product to collect curbside because of its bulkiness and light weight, but this program, and the proximity of the NOVA Chemical site make it a win-win-win situation."

Only packing foam that has a "#6" recycling symbol is accepted. The foam must be clean and dry and must have all tape, paper and staples removed.

Leone said he hopes the program continues to grow. The county waste management department conducted a pilot program in the Blackhawk School District, Leone said, something he would like to see replicated at Central Valley. He hopes to start discussions with officials at Central Valley Middle School — which is located in the borough — in September.

That would allow the borough to expand the program and give more educational opportunities on sustainability, Leone said.

"We hope to implement a similar educational awareness program with these students and install a third drop off location in the borough," he said.

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