



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 28, 2015**

**CONTACT: Michael Mundell, Solid Waste Manager**  
424 South Castell Ave.  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
830.221.4040  
[mmundell@nbtexas.org](mailto:mmundell@nbtexas.org)

## **Foam Accepted for Recycling at the City Recycle Center**

**New Braunfels, TX** – Beginning Friday, May 29th, the City of New Braunfels’ City Recycle Center will accept expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam for recycling. This type of foam is often identified by the #6 resin code. The City Recycle Center, located at 488 S. Castell Ave, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but is closed from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Residents and businesses can bring plastic foam cups, foam foodservice containers, and foam packaging for recycling, but only clean, dry foam without food residue or affixed tape, stickers, or paper labels will be accepted. The Center does not have the facility space to clean items or remove those adhesives.

Foam packing peanuts, also known as loose fill, are accepted and must be brought in a separate container from other foam.

“However, ensure it is plastic foam as there are biodegradable packing peanuts that look like plastic, but are actually starch-based and soluble in water,” said Michael Mundell, Solid Waste Manager. “In addition, foam packing peanuts often can be reused by local mail and shipping centers. Consider checking with local businesses before bringing packing peanuts for drop-off.”

Plastic foam brought to the Center for recycling should be separate from any other recyclables also being dropped-off, as the City Recycle Center accepts single-stream materials and scrap metal items. Bringing foam in a bag or container that can be easily and quickly emptied is advisable.

Once dropped-off, an onsite machine cuts the foam into small pieces, heats it, and densifies it. The densified foam is used by plastics manufacturers to create new products, including picture frames and crown molding. Although plastic foam makes up a relatively small percentage of the overall waste stream in weight (estimated at 1%), its volume is considerable. The addition of foam to the City’s recycling drop-off location demonstrates the City’s ongoing environmental stewardship efforts, as recycling foam will divert more plastic from the landfill and reduce the cubic yards of space taken up when foam is thrown away.

“The City of New Braunfels is now among the select few municipalities in Texas that accepts and densifies plastic foam. Densification makes the foam a sellable commodity and more likely to be recycled,” said Mr. Mundell. “We’re grateful to be able to provide this service and thank the Alamo Area Council of Governments for awarding the City a grant funded by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality that assisted in the purchase of the densifying machine.”

For more information on recycling plastic foam, visit [www.nbtexas.org/foamrecycling](http://www.nbtexas.org/foamrecycling) or call the City’s Solid Waste and Recycling Division at 830-221-4040.

# # #