



TAKE  
A LOOK AT  
EPS  
RECYCLING

2017

EPS  
RECYCLING  
RATE REPORT

Expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam is one of the most heavily debated materials when it comes to recycling. Many are not aware EPS packaging is recyclable—and has been recycled successfully by businesses and consumers throughout the United States since 1991.



# METHODOLOGY

The 2017 Expanded Polystyrene Recycling Rate Study was conducted by the EPS Industry Alliance to gather data to reflect both post-consumer and post-industrial recycling activity. The 2017 results are based on data received from 55 EPS manufacturers and independent recyclers in the U.S.

Participation in the EPS recycling survey is voluntary and the reported data is based on the responses received. Many companies have limited resources to put towards participation in the survey, and some companies may choose not to respond due to their confidentiality policies. Therefore, because there is not 100 percent participation, the presented totals represent the minimum amount of EPS recovered for recycling.

## COLLECTION OPTIONS & RESOURCES

Not everything can be recycled all the time. In order for materials to be recycled, stable markets must exist and there must be a demand for the end products. Each community has its own guidelines for which plastics are accepted, and these can vary widely. Some locations also offer consumer drop-off access. To find out if EPS recycling is available in your area, visit [www.epsindustry.org](http://www.epsindustry.org).

For consumers that do not have access to a local drop-off center, the EPS-IA sponsors a National Mail-Back Program intended for smaller quantities of EPS which can be mailed via USPS or UPS to more than 20 locations nationwide. Full instructions and a list of Mail-Back locations are available on the EPS-IA website.



# SPECIAL INITIATIVES

## 2018 EXCELLENCE IN EPS RECYCLING AWARD WINNER

In 2011, NOVA Chemicals kicked off an employee campaign to recycle EPS at their Pittsburgh headquarters. "Bring Your Foam From Home" was a success, resulting in public education and a collection program partnership with the Pennsylvania Resource Council (PRC), a nonprofit environmental organization and Appliance Warehouse, a local retailer. This partnership provided opportunities for the general public to drop off EPS at a number of Hard to Recycle events in Western Pennsylvania. In 2014, the partnership with PRC resulted in the design and unveiling of a self-service EPS collection bin that is commercially available through RecyclingBin.com. To date, over 80,000 pounds of EPS has been recycled through their programs.

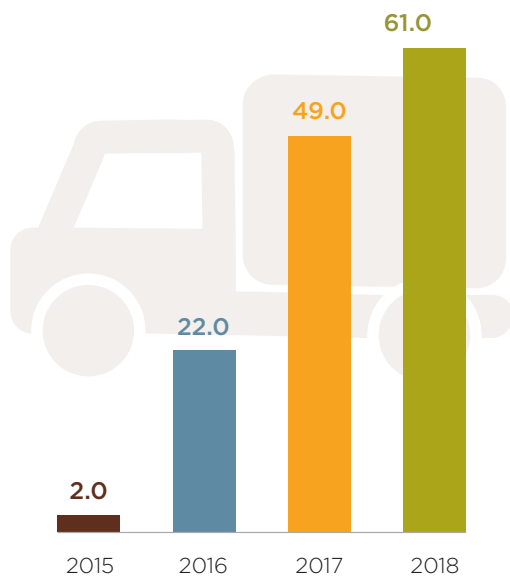


## EPS DENSIFIER GRANT PROGRAM

The Foodservice Packaging Institute established a grant program under its Foam Recycling Coalition as part of a concerted effort to explore polystyrene curbside collection viability.

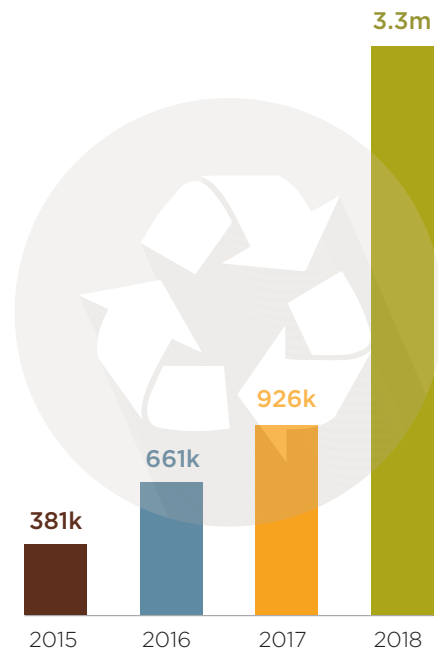
Since 2015, the FRC has awarded 17 grants to various municipalities across North America.

**LANDFILL SPACE SAVED PER YEAR  
(53 FT TRAILER LOADS)**



Volume of foam converted to an equivalent number of tractor trailer loads.  
53 ft trailer = 3,816 cubic feet, non-densified foam = 1.30 lb./cubic ft.

**INCREASE IN ACCESS TO FOAM RECYCLING PER YEAR**



Additional population that have access to foam recycling based on active FRC grant projects.



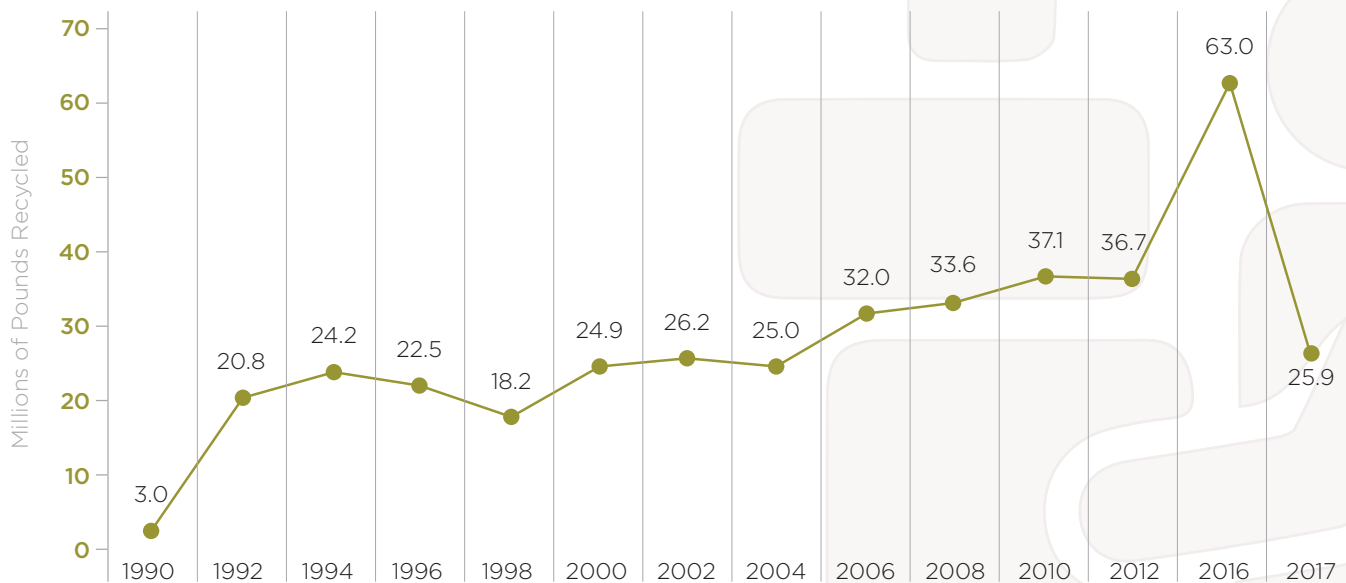
Post-Industrial  
(millions of pounds)

39.0

Post-Consumer  
(millions of pounds)

25.9

### Post-Consumer EPS Recycling 1990-2017



The 25-year baseline shows incremental gains with more than 23 million pounds of EPS recycled annually on average. Like all commodity markets, the EPS recycling market is cyclical. The 2017 results reflect a decrease from 2016 due to the new landscape for recycling commodities and changing international markets, especially in China.

# EPS RECYCLING - FUTURE FORWARD



First Ribbon Cutting - April 2018



The Oregon-based energy company expanded to include a PS foam conversion process that uses recycled PS to produce a styrene monomer and other products, creating the first circular economy for styrene. Agilyx, which currently works with communities in the Northwest, has the capacity to process over 3,000 tons of foam PS per year.



First Ribbon Cutting - Aug 2018



Polystyvert, a Montreal-based clean technology startup, developed an innovative, low-carbon-footprint process to recycle PS using dissolution technology, which includes a purification process to remove contaminants. The result is a high-purity recycled resource that can be reused for upcycled PS products.

## IT'S TIME TO REALIZE EPS IS RECYCLABLE



280  
DROP-OFF  
LOCATIONS



20  
MAIL-BACK  
LOCATIONS



82  
CURBSIDE  
LOCATIONS



50+  
COLLECTION  
EVENTS/YEAR



Many communities engage in special collection events for EPS foam throughout the year.

Visit our Facebook page @epsrecycling to learn more.

# DATA

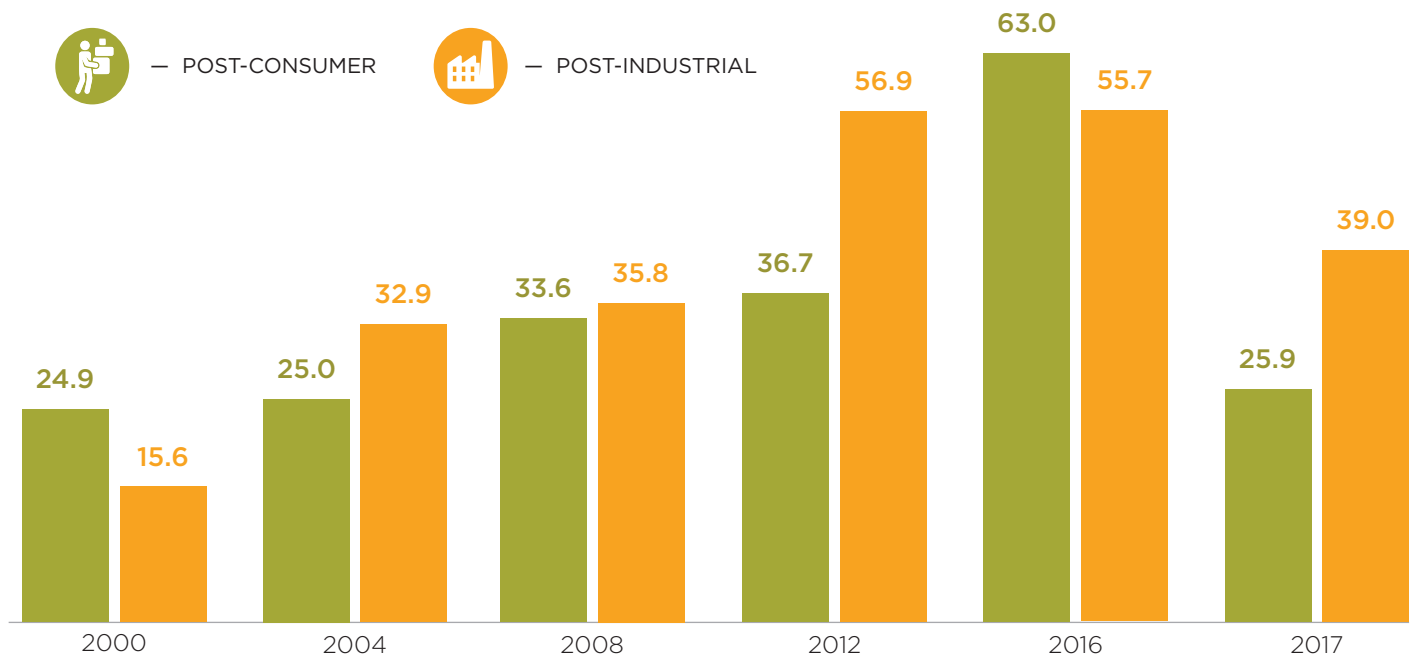
More than 65 million pounds of EPS were recycled during calendar year 2017. This figure includes 25.9 million pounds of post-consumer packaging and 39.0 million pounds of post-industrial recovery. Post-consumer is defined as any material that is recycled after its intended end-use while post-industrial recovery includes EPS facility scrap that is recycled but never served its intended purpose as a packaging material or other end-use application.

2017 Total  
million pounds of EPS recycled

# 65.0



## EPS Recycling Post-Consumer & Post-Industrial (millions of pounds)



Despite lower collection amounts reflected in 2017, EPS has historically enjoyed consistent growth since its inception in the early 1990's. This decrease is a direct result of export restrictions on recycled plastics and a reprocessing plant closure that previously recycled large quantities of EPS. Newer EPS recycling technologies to facilitate EPS collection and reprocessing launched in 2018 indicate growth rates will continue on an upward trend in the future.

# EPS-IA Members

ACH Foam Technologies  
ADLAM Films LLC  
AFM Corporation  
Airlite Plastics Co.  
APTCO, LLC  
Aqua-Pak Styro Containers Ltd.  
Archbold Container Corporation  
Armstrong Brands, Inc.  
Atlas EPS, A Division of Atlas Roofing  
BASF Corporation  
Beaver Plastics Ltd  
Big Sky Insulations, Inc.  
Cellofoam North America, Inc.  
Comfort Research LLC  
Concrete Block Insulating Systems, Inc.  
DiversiFoam Products  
Drew Foam Companies, Inc.  
Dyplast Products  
EFP Corporation  
Erlenbach GmbH  
Flint Hills Resources, LP  
FMI-EPS, LLC  
Foam Equipment & Consulting Co.  
Foam Fabricators, Inc.  
Fransyl LTD  
Groupe Isofoam  
Hirsch Americas, LTD  
Houston Foam Plastics  
Huntington Solutions  
IMG Plastec Co., Ltd.  
Insulation Corporation of America  
Insulation Technology, Inc.  
Insulfoam LLC  
KBM ApS  
KDX America  
Kongskilde Industries Inc.  
Kurtz Ersa, Inc.  
Lanxess Corporation  
Le Groupe LegerLite, Inc.  
Lifoam Industries  
Mansonville Plastics(BC)Ltd. / First  
Choice Manufacturing  
Marko Foam Products, Inc.  
Michigan Foam Products  
MODIX Corporation  
Nexkemia Petrochemicals Inc.  
North Central Foam, LLC  
Northwest Foam Products  
NOVA Chemicals, Inc.  
Nuova IdroPress SpA  
OPCO, Inc.  
Pacific Allied Products  
Palpac Industries, Inc.  
Plasti-Fab Ltd.  
Plastilite Corporation  
Plymouth Foam Inc.  
Polar Industries, Inc.  
Poly Molding, LLC  
Polyfoam Corporation  
Polyform Inc.  
Polymos Inc.  
Polystyvert Inc.  
Progressive Foam Technologies, Inc.  
ProWall Building Products  
RADVA Corporation  
RAPAC, LP  
Robin II, Inc.  
Schaumplast Precision Foam Molders, LP  
Schlaadt Plastics Ltd.  
Sebright Products, Inc.  
Shelter Enterprises, Inc.  
Sonoco Protective Solutions  
Starrfoam Manufacturing, Inc.  
Styropek USA  
Styrotek Inc.  
Sulzer Chemtech USA, Inc.  
Sunghoon Tech Co., Ltd.  
Takashima U.S.A., Inc.  
Therma Foam, LLC  
Thermal Foams, Inc.  
Thermalite Products Inc.  
Truefoam Limited  
Vanocur Refractories, LLC



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