

Memo

To: Village President
From: Robert Kosin
cc: Board of Trustees
Date: August 26, 2016
Re: VBH Styrofoam Program

The Village of Barrington Hills has participated in a Styrofoam recycling program. A container was in the western lobby where people dropped off Styrofoam and it was collected by one Kenneth Santowski.

But beyond that it was not readily known that there was no recycling program and absent what Ken started, staffed and induced a few other local governments besides his own were the only points of collection of Styrofoam.

Ken has for nearly three years collected the Styrofoam upon call, day or night and received no recompense for his program. It was truly a volunteer program.

But as reported and probably to the dismay of Ken, it is ending and no other market has come forward. Styrofoam in all its shapes remains a product bound for a land fill or more troublesome found on the road side.

It is therefore proposed that the Village Board of Trustees find that a letter of commendation and appreciation be sent by the Village President noting the efforts accomplished and benefits to Ken Santowski of the Styrofoam Recycling Program.

Styrofoam recycling loses rare provider

Volunteer forced to halt suburban service

BY NEREIDA MORENO
Chicago Tribune

After years of providing a free polystyrene recycling service for 10 northwest suburban locations, Ken Santowski recently announced he was shutting it down. He could no longer afford to store truckloads of foam before hauling them to faraway processing plants, he said.

One Wisconsin company began to charge him money to accept the material. Another plant in North Aurora took the foam for free, but had scheduling issues. Santowski, 56, announced in July that he couldn't make it work. He was wait-

ing weeks before landing a drop-off appointment, which meant turning semi-trailers from his small business to storing facilities.

He hopes to get the program back up and running again, but in the meantime Algonquin and other nearby towns join the majority of communities in the region that have no official means to divert polystyrene from landfills.

The fact that polystyrene recycling for 10 communities was run by a volunteer is emblematic of how difficult it remains to operate a viable program. Only 1.3 percent of all polystyrene discarded in 2013 was recycled, according to the Envi-



MIKE MANTUCCA/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Steven Walker loads Styrofoam into a recycling machine at Dart Container Corp. in North Aurora.

ronmental Protection Agency, even though environmental groups and local governments voiced concerns about the material. The foam, which is nonbiodegradable, easily crumbles into small pieces, making it more likely to be trans-

ported through storm drains to waterways and marine environments, according to a January 2015 report by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Polystyrene is rarely col-

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