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Illinois Introduces Foam Recycling Public Drop-Off Facility in Aurora

*Dart Container Corp. of Illinois encourages residents and organizations
To divert foam from landfills at its free 24/7 foam recycling facility*

AURORA, Ill. (November 12, 2009) – Foam recycling has arrived in Kane County. Dart Container Corporation of Illinois today unveiled in Aurora its latest post-consumer foam recycling drop-off site – the first in the state. As one of a growing number of regions to be equipped with foam recycling infrastructure, the free drop-off will pioneer a new way for Illinois residents, businesses and organizations to use and reuse foam with the number 6 on it.

This is the state's first public site to accept foam food service containers, including foam cups, plates, take-out containers, egg cartons, as well as shaped or molded foam often used to package electronics. This effort, Dart's 10th drop-off location in the country, will divert foam from area landfills and allow it to be recycled into new products such as picture frames and moldings.

"We're thrilled to open our first public drop-off in Illinois and will continue to open new collections centers across the country," said Michael Westerfield. "Dart wants to heighten public awareness that foam is recyclable. Throwing foam away is easy, but we hope that this new facility will provide private residents, businesses and organizations with an equally as easy alternative to recycle it instead of contributing to the waste stream."


Once foam is dropped off at Dart, it is then compacted and shipped to a company that will use it as feedstock to make new materials. To be accepted for recycling, the foam must bear the "6" symbol with chasing arrows .

"The Village of North Aurora is extremely proud of our largest employer, Dart Container Corporation," said Village of North Aurora President Dale Berman. "The foam collection drop off is another example demonstrating its commitment to our community."

To mark this special occasion, Dart Corporation held a ribbon-cutting Thursday, Nov. 12 outside of the new drop off facility at Dart Container Corp. of Illinois at 310 Evergreen Dr., North Aurora, Ill., 60543-1702. In attendance was U.S. Congressman Bill Foster, Village of North Aurora President Dale Berman and Trustee Mark Gaffino, Jonathan Wood of the Board of Education in West Aurora, and Julie DeVilbiss of Insite Managed Services.

"I am so pleased that the North Aurora Dart facility will now be able to accept foam products for recycling," said U.S. Congressman Bill Foster. "By giving our community the opportunity to recycle additional types of materials such as foam, we can work together to reduce our waste and make a positive impact on our environment."

Dart is driving recycling efforts from its manufacturing facilities to workplaces, warehouse recycling centers and consumers' homes in curbside recycling efforts across the country. Often improperly called "Styrofoam," a registered trademark of the Dow Chemical Company, Dart's products are recyclable and reusable. Recycled foam food service products can be reprocessed into building insulation, plastic lumber, and many other products. Foam products generate less waste in their production than paper alternatives, are stable and safe in landfills, and burn cleanly in modern municipal energy-from-waste facilities.

Foam  can be recycled by:

- Rinse cups and containers to rid them of food.
- Place foam in a clear plastic bag.
- No straws or lids.
- No foam insulation
- No packaging peanuts (call 800-828-2214 or go to www.loosefillpackaging.com for sites).

About Dart Container Corporation

Established in 1937, Dart Container Corporation sets the industry standard of excellence by providing high quality recyclable, affordable and safe foodservice products and packaging, exceptionally reliable service and responsible environmental practices. Dart is making a concerted effort to increase foam recycling opportunities throughout the country and strives to produce high-quality, cost-effective products in a manner sensitive to environmental concerns. Dart is headquartered in Mason, Mich. For more information, visit www.dart.biz or call (800) 248-5960.