Styrofoam Recycling Collection Day Template

for garden clubs, municipalities, and other organizations to hold their own event.

This sample press release and checklist are based on a very successful Styrofoam collection event sponsored by the Little Compton Garden Club on January 10, 2026.

PRESS RELEASE
Start Saving Styrofoam

Hold the foam! On Saturday, January 10, 2026, the Little Compton Garden Club will host a Styrofoam Recycling Day at St. Andrew's Church at 182 Willow Avenue in Little Compton. Garden club members will be on hand from 9:00 a.m. to noon to accept your Styrofoam and other recyclables.

Start saving blocks of hard, white Styrofoam (no labels or tape) used for protective packing, including computers, TVs, other electronics, and breakable items. We will also accept Styrofoam coolers and ice chests; rinsed Styrofoam coffee cups, to-go food containers, meat trays, egg cartons, and other Styrofoam products with the #6 recycling triangle. Packing peanuts or spongy foam that don't snap when you try to break them will NOT be accepted.

Styrofoam is a persistent pollutant potentially harmful to human health. It contributes to widespread litter and steals landfill space because it does not degrade over time. Start storing used Styrofoam in (preferably) clear plastic bags and take advantage of this opportunity to recycle your holiday waste. This is part of the Little Compton Garden Club's efforts to keep undesirable items out of the town and state's landfill.

Little Compton Garden Club members will deliver the Styrofoam to Insulation Technology in Bridgewater, MA, where it is recycled into insulation. Anyone can drop off Styrofoam at this facility conveniently located on the way to Boston, just two minutes off Route 24. Route 104 East exit to Bridgewater.

For more information, email info@littlecomptongardenclub.org or call 617-962-4382.

PLANNING CHECKLIST

Determine a Drop-Off Location
You will need a parking lot with room for trucks to be loaded with the bags and blocks of Styrofoam. There should be plenty of room for stacking the Styrofoam while volunteers check that the Styrofoam is clean and is placed in clear bags. Ideally there will be bathroom facilities for the volunteers.

Select a Date
Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. was a good time for us. Arrange for enough volunteers for the day of the event. We always had between five and eight people on site, which worked well. Arrange for refreshments for the volunteers.

Contact Insulation Technology or Sonoco Protective Solutions Ahead to Determine Delivery.
Insulation Technology has a shed that is available for small amounts 24/7. Because of our large amount, they requested we wait until a weekday when they are open.
We did not work with Sonoco Protective Solutions, which is based in Connecticut. It may be the best choice and location for collection events by other groups.

Styrofoam Recycling Collection Day Template - 2

Send Out Press Releases

- Send the first press release several months out to inform people of the event and ask them to start saving Styrofoam products.
- Follow up with several press releases closer to the date. Use local media, community newsletters, social media, neighborhood groups, and like-minded organizations. We found our local newspaper was extremely effective. People from distances up to 45 minutes away came with Styrofoam they had been storing in their basement for years.

Post Yard Signs Alerting the Public of the Event

Day of the Event

- Make sure the collection site is easy to find and there is plenty of room. Consider using traffic cones and/or signs to direct people. You will need to anticipate multiple cars arriving and wanting to unload at the same time.
- Be there at least 30 minutes before the event for early birds.
- Dropped off Styrofoam will need to be examined to make sure it is clean and within the specifications of what can be recycled.
- Unsuitable items are returned to the donor or bagged to be disposed of by the organizer. This includes packing peanuts and any flexible foam products.
- Make sure smaller material is in clear plastic bags; larger pieces can be left unbagged. We received a lot of large storage containers which can be left unbagged.
- Load the trucks and other vehicles with the bags. In our case we had so much more than we anticipated that we made multiple trips to a nearby garage throughout the morning, where we stored it until Monday.
- For our next event, we will put out a donations box for people to help defray the costs of renting a truck.

After the Event

- We rented a 16-foot truck on the Monday after the event. We filled it completely and drove it, along with four other SUVs to Insulations Technology. They were very happy with the huge amount of Styrofoam that we collected and gave us a comprehensive tour of the facility.
- Take down road signs.
- Send follow-up stories with pictures to local media and post on social media platforms.

Styrofoam Recycling Collection Day Template – 3

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Regional Options for Diverting Styrofoam from our landfills/After-market Use:

- Insulation Technology. Bridgewater, MA. 40 mins NE of Providence on Rt 24.
- Sonoco Protective Solutions, Putnam, CT. 40 mins NW of Providence on 395.
  These businesses recycle Styrofoam, converting it into insulation products.

RI Resource and Recovery Center in Johnston, RI, does not accept Styrofoam as a separate recyclable item. It ends up in the landfill.

Styrofoam does not degrade in our landfills, so let's divert it to businesses that will repurpose it. **Click on this link about Insulation Technology and their business.**

What happens to Styrofoam in a landfill?

- It does not biodegrade. Microorganisms cannot digest polystyrene, the petroleum-based plastic that Styrofoam is made from.
- It does not photodegrade underground. Sunlight can slowly weaken Styrofoam's surface over months or years, but inside a landfill—where it is buried and shielded from UV light—this process stops entirely.
- It can persist for hundreds to millions of years. Estimates range from 500 years to over a million years, depending on environmental conditions.
- It breaks down into fragments instead of decomposing. Over extremely long periods, it may break into smaller pieces, eventually becoming microplastics, but the material itself remains.

Rules for What is acceptable for recycling:

- They only accept clean, dry rigid, hard foam blocks (with no labels or tape). This includes:
- Styrofoam coolers and ice chests
- Clean Styrofoam coffee cups and to-go cups and food containers
- Styrofoam egg cartons
- Rinsed Styrofoam meat trays
- Hard, white foam blocks of protective packaging
- Other foam with #6 inside the recycling triangle
- They do not accept packing peanuts or spongy foam

If you have questions, contact Little Compton Garden Club members:
Lavinia Gadsden: Lgadsden@gmail.com
Lynn Steiner: Lmsteiner1313@gmail.com