

Punching out Styrofoam

Recyclers' red bag program hopes to reduce N. Shore waste stream

BY TESSA HOLLOWAY, NORTH SHORE NEWS MARCH 11, 2011



George Jasper and Nick Kiss of WCS Recycling offer an alternative to the landfill for recyclables not presently included in the curbside blue box collection program.

Photograph by: Mike Wakefield, NEWS photo

Blue bags and yellow bags are common recycling fare, but what about red bags?

A North Vancouver company is looking to provide residents with another option for recycling goods, such as Styrofoam, some plastics and gable-top milk, soy and soup containers, which don't fit in the curbside pick-up options.

Their alternative is a red bag slightly larger than the average garbage bag, which can be filled with those goods and then brought to the company's North Vancouver warehouse.

The fee is \$6, payable when the bag is picked up by the customer.

"It's really had a good response, especially from the citizens of the North Shore," said George Jasper, operating manager at WCS Recycling, which runs the service. "Our goal is to have on average 100 people here on Saturday, and at this point after two months

we're already up to 30 people on average."

The program launched on Boxing Day with a fundraiser for the Harvest Food Project, which aside from diverting a whole lot of waste from the landfill also raised \$550 for the organization.

Since then, they've opened their doors to the public every **Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, while during the week they continue with the commercial recycling business they have operated for 10 years.

Jasper said they are looking to recycle all the products locally, and while they have found buyers for the higher-grade Styrofoam and plastics, some of the products have been difficult.

"We want as much as possible to see that these materials are re-used and recycled locally and not sent overseas," he said, which is where most blue-box recyclables end up.

Jasper is challenging North Shore residents to voluntarily cut their garbage pick-up from once a week to once every two weeks.

"I would say what we'd like to achieve would be . . . to offer the North Shore residents an opportunity to increase their recycling rate and to reduce the amount of garbage they're throwing out," he said.

WCS Recycling is located at 1493 Dominion St. in North Vancouver, or online at www.wcsrecycling.com.

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