

POLYSTYRENE BAN

WHY BAN POLYSTYRENE?

Polystyrene (sometimes called Styrofoam™) production uses hydrofluorocarbons, identified as a contributor to the hole in the ozone layer

Polystyrene is not biodegradable, is not recyclable (economically), and breaks into micro-pieces in the environment

Styrene, the main component of polystyrene, has been classified as a possible human carcinogen


Polystyrene chemicals can leach into food stored in polystyrene containers

POLICY OBJECTIVES IN ADOPTING A POLYSTYRENE BAN

Adopt a ban that is consistent with most of the surrounding city bans

Follow an adoption process that maximizes outreach to stakeholders and parties of interest

Reduce trash and solid waste, increase recyclables, improve water quality, and protect the environment



*Polystyrene...
breaks down into
micro-pieces in the
environment*



ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED BAN ON POLYSTYRENE

- ✓ Polystyrene food and beverage containers would be banned
- ✓ A six-month grace period would be included, allowing business to exhaust existing supplies
- ✓ Compostable containers would not be required
- ✓ Replacement food and beverage containers would have to be recyclable
- ✓ County Departments would be precluded from using polystyrene food or beverage containers
- ✓ Prepared foods packaged outside the County would be exempt

DISCUSSION

Of the 19 cities and towns in Contra Costa County, ten have adopted a polystyrene ban, the earliest in 1993

Of the 19 cities and towns in Contra Costa County, ten have adopted a polystyrene ban, the earliest in 1993. All ordinances ban the use of polystyrene food containers, while three ban the use of other polystyrene products like packing peanuts, packaging materials, and ice chests. To be consistent with most of the surrounding cities, the County is only banning food and beverage containers in unincorporated communities. The County is required to reduce trash in its waterways to be in compliance with its Municipal Regional Permit. In the environment, polystyrene containers break down into smaller and smaller pieces, creating more trash than alternative food and beverage containers. Once it starts breaking down it is almost impossible to clean up, and the small pieces are a health hazard to many aquatic species and their prey.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF KEY MILESTONES

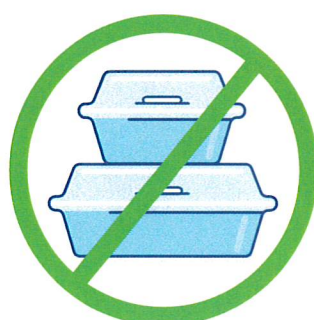
OUTREACH TO STAKEHOLDERS, INTERESTED AND IMPACTED PARTIES, AND REPRESENTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS TO SEEK COMMENTS	AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2018
CONDUCT INITIAL PUBLIC HEARING TO GATHER INPUT	OCTOBER 2018
DEVELOP ORDINANCE	NOVEMBER 2018 - MARCH 2019
CONDUCT SECOND PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW ORDINANCE	APRIL 2019
REVISE ORDINANCE AS NECESSARY	APRIL - MAY 2019
CONDUCT FINAL PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE	MAY 2019

If you have comments on the polystyrene ban please contact Cece Sellgren at 925-313-2296, or at cece.sellgren@pw.cccounty.us

THE BAN WILL INCLUDE:



PLATES



TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS



CUPS



BOWLS