

Best Options for Limiting Styrofoam in Brunswick, ME

Agenda

Addressing issues raised about a Styrofoam ordinance

1. Problems with Styrofoam:
 - a) environmental
 - b) health
 - c) recycling
2. Impact on small businesses
3. Enforcement issues:
 - a) how done
 - b) lead time and compliance

R&S recommendation

1a. Problems: environmental

- Expanded polystyrene foam (EPS or “Styrofoam”) never biodegrades. It just breaks into small pieces ...
- Its light weight and buoyant nature allows to it be carried by wind or through storm drains to waterways and the ocean
- EPS is often mistaken for food by marine life (*Conservation Law Foundation*)

Ex. Androscoggin River



Ex. Mere Point



1b. Problems: health

- EPA classifies styrene as a possible human carcinogen
- Workers who manufacture styrene may experience myriad adverse health effects, including increased risk of certain cancers (EPA, NOAA)
- Styrene can migrate from containers into food and beverages when heated, or in contact with fatty or acidic foods (HHS)



1c. Problems: recycling

- Styrofoam has minimal recycle-ability because
 - the commodities market for EPS is very limited
 - shipping it to market is expensive and inefficient because it is so bulky relative to its weight



2. Impact on small businesses

- Most of our Brunswick establishments do not use Styrofoam (22 of 32)
 - There are affordable options for those who do



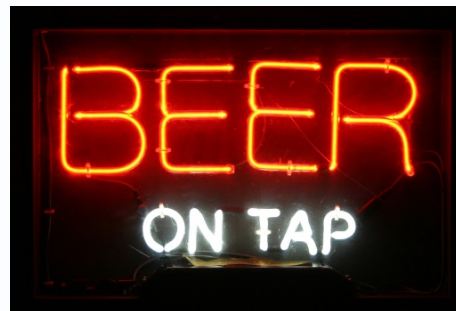
16 oz cold cup		
Styrofoam	\$22.50 for 500	5¢
Paper	\$51.75 for 1,000	5¢
16 oz hot cup		
Styrofoam	\$22.50 for 500	5¢
Paper	\$63.25 for 1,000	6¢
Dual paper	\$91.00 for 1,000	9¢
Take-out containers (6x6")		
Styrofoam-hinged	\$36.00 for 500	7¢
Paper - hinged	\$58.50 for 500	12¢
Plastic 6x5" recyclable	\$40.80 for 500	8¢
Take-out containers (9x9")		
Styrofoam-hinged	\$18.75 for 200	9¢
Plastic 8x8" recyclable	\$33.00 for 200	17¢
Divided 9x9" cardboard		15-20¢
Divided 8x6" aluminum/lid	\$40.00 for 500	8¢

3a. Enforcement: how done

- Most places with Styrofoam ordinances rely on citizen complaints



- Complaints would be handled similar to those about signage, sandwich boards, chairs & tables on sidewalks, etc.
- First violation would result in warning
- Subsequent violations: \leq \$100



3b. Enforcement: lead time & compliance

- A 6 month lead time would be sufficient for businesses to use up current stock of Styrofoam items
- Portland reports few issues with non-compliance

“...Compliance with [the Styrofoam] ordinance has also been excellent.

...we do not have a formal enforcement plan. Instead, we are relying on complaints from the public as well as observation from City employees. I would say that Portland residents and businesses have accepted both packaging ordinances.”

*--Troy Moon, Portland's Environmental Programs and Open Space manager
Email of November 6, 2015*

Recommendation:

Pass Styrofoam ban identical to that of Portland & S Portland

Bans the packaging and serving of prepared food and beverages in polystyrene foam within Town limits

- Applies to food that is prepared and served at restaurants, grocery stores, shops, convenience stores, delicatessens, sales outlets and other establishments
- “Prepared food” does not mean raw uncooked meat or eggs
- Exceptions for hardship and public emergencies
- Allow 6 month lead time to use up current inventory





Questions?