



Contact Us At: info@nofoamchicago.org
www.nofoamchicago.org

Who we are:

A group of environmentally- and civic-minded friends who came together to inform the general public in the city of Chicago of the dangers of using Expanded Polystyrene (Styrofoam) food packaging. Its massive consumption is filling up our landfills and depleting our natural resource (petroleum) not to mention littering our beaches and parks. They look to encourage the city of Chicago to join the already 100+ cities nationwide by banning Styrofoam food packaging by 2012.

Why now?

In the past six months, due to the economy and an attempt to save their bottom line, restaurants have increased their use of Styrofoam containers for to-go requests. This made us more aware of the situation but then finding out that the majority of Chicago's Public Schools are using Styrofoam trays in their lunch program (approx. 400,000 students) rang the alarm bell!!!! This alarmed us for two reasons: health and safety of young children eating hot meals off of styrofoam as the chemical styrene is known for leaching; and the thought of 400,000 plus styrofoam trays going in the landfill daily and they will never biodegrade, EVER!

A precedent has been established among West Coast cities in leading the ban on all Styrofoam products. Portland, Oregon had the first ban that was enacted in the late nineties and in the following years close to **100 cities nation wide** have either an ordinance in place or currently working on one. Other major cities include : L.A., Oakland, Seattle and San Francisco. New York City is currently working on passing an ordinance.

We feel it is time for the Midwest to step up to the plate and follow other cities in banning the use of Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) food packaging. Mayor Daley touts our city as being green but how green are we if our LEED certified, green-roofed buildings are serving Styrofoam products? This initiative would be a great tie in with the 2010 Chicago Climate Plan.

CASE STUDY: San Francisco (pop. 800,000)

Styrofoam was banned November, 2006

"The ban appears to have had a significant impact: Researchers drafting an annual litter report have found the amount of polystyrene foam strewn across The City fell 36 percent in the last year, according to San Francisco commercial recycling coordinator." (San Francisco Examiner, June 16, 2008).

By the numbers

- 4,500** Restaurants in The City of San Francisco
- 2,200** Restaurants audited after polystyrene foam ban
- 400** Restaurants caught violating the ban
- 8** Restaurants given \$100 tickets after warnings ignored
- 36%** One-year drop in polystyrene foam