



# POLYSTYRENE BAN FACT SHEET FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

## Polystyrene Ban Basic Elements

- **Effective July, 1 2015**
- Prohibits the use of polystyrene food-service ware and food packaging, which is marked with the plastic resin code #6:
  - Food-service ware includes cutlery, tableware, cups, lids and plates intended for food or drink and used for storage, preparation, service or consumption.
  - Food packaging includes bags, boxes, wrappings, trays, "clamshell" containers, bottles and other containers intended for food or drink and used in storage, preparation, service or consumption.

## Who does the ban affect?

- Any restaurant, coffee shop, bakery, retail market, cafeteria, take-out counter, commercial kitchen, grocery store, convenience store, and catering operation
- Food trucks or stands, sidewalk or festival vendors or temporary stands
- Any food-service facility in an institution, hospital, club, school, church, park or public building, meeting or convention facility, or camp.

## How Much Will This Cost My Business?

- **There are many cost competitive alternatives to polystyrene.** Materials such as compostable plastic, recycled paper and plant fiber are all readily available from many retail or online stores. Most of the items are also compostable, allowing you to decrease your environmental footprint and proudly tout your business as "green-friendly"!
- **Switching to alternatives is economical.** A survey of available polystyrene and alternative products from Costco conducted by The Takoma Park Public Works Department found a **\$.04 increase in total unit cost** when purchasing four alternative material items as opposed to polystyrene products.
- **Alternative products are budget-friendly.** One of the most widely used containers, a 9" one-compartment clamshell, was available at a cheaper cost produced from plant fiber than one composed of polystyrene foam.
- The County estimated that the County ban, which enters effect in January 2016, would result in a \$.10 cost increase per unit from switching from polystyrene to an alternative product.

## Resources for your transition

The following documents can be found at:

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/polystyrene-ban](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/polystyrene-ban)

- City Code Chapter 8.16.080: "Polystyrene food-service ware and packaging."
- **Vendors and manufacturers** of non-polystyrene food-service ware and packaging products.
- **A list of food-service ware and packaging alternatives and pricing.**
- **Cost Analyses**
- Frequently Asked Questions

## Have any questions?

**Visit:**

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/publicworks)

**Call: (301) 891-7621**

**Email:**

[NimaU@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:NimaU@takomaparkmd.gov)