

2011 Plastic Pollution Prevention Summit

Reasons to Ban Polystyrene and Issues to Address



Allison Chan

Policy Associate, Save The Bay

Partial funding for this project comes from the US EPA San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund (2009) in collaboration with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and ABAG



What is polystyrene?





Why ban polystyrene?

Polystyrene foam litters our waterways and threatens Bay wildlife

- Light weight & easily transported
- Second most abundant form of beach debris in California
- Ingested by animals
- Suffocates wetlands





Why ban polystyrene?

Polystyrene foam is a problem for local governments

- Cities spend millions annually to clean public areas
- Natural recreation areas around the Bay have high economic value





Focus on food ware

RECYCLING IS NOT AN OPTION

- **NO** market
- **NO** curbside collection
- **MUST** be clean





Regional trend

Over 20 Bay Area jurisdictions have passed polystyrene food ware bans



- Over 40 jurisdictions statewide
- Rising demand for Green Businesses
- High quality and affordable alternatives



Things to consider

Framing the issue:

- Disproportionate impact on the environment
- A ban will decrease polystyrene litter

Materials:

- Foam *and* rigid?
- Lids, utensils?





Things to consider

Outreach:

- Targeted/public meetings?
- Multi-lingual materials?

Food ware alternatives:

- What do you recycle?
- What does your composting facility accept?
- Co-ops





Thank you!

Municipal Resources:

<http://www.savesfbay.org/municipal-resources>

Allison Chan

allison@savesfbay.org

(510) 452-9261 x118