

Introduced by: Councilmember Clay

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
RESOLUTION 2010-32**

**CONCERNING THE PURCHASE OF POLYSTYRENE FOOD SERVICE WARE**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Takoma Park has a duty to protect the natural environment and the health of its residents; and

**WHEREAS**, items of polystyrene food service ware are common environmental pollutants, yet there continues to be no meaningful recycling of these items; and

**WHEREAS**, compostable or biodegradable food service ware is a safer, more ecologically sound alternative; and

**WHEREAS**, polystyrene foam is notorious as a pollutant that breaks down into smaller, non-biodegradable pieces that are ingested by marine life and other wildlife, thus harming or killing them; and

**WHEREAS**, polystyrene is made from the monomer styrene, which is a suspected human carcinogen and known neurotoxin which potentially threatens human health; and

**WHEREAS**, the general public is not typically warned of any potential hazard related to the manufacturing and use of polystyrene in food service ware, particularly in the immigrant and non-English-speaking community; and

**WHEREAS**, due to these concerns, a number of U.S. cities have banned polystyrene food service ware, and many local businesses and several national corporations have successfully replaced polystyrene foam and other non-biodegradable food service ware with affordable, safe and reusable or compostable products; and

**WHEREAS**, effective ways to reduce the negative environmental impact of throw-away food service ware include reusing food service ware or using compostable or biodegradable materials made from renewable resources such as paper, bamboo, cornstarch and sugarcane; and

**WHEREAS**, restricting the purchase of polystyrene food service ware by the City of Takoma Park will further protect the public health and safety of the Takoma Park residents, the natural environment, waterways, and wildlife, and will advance the Council's goal of developing a sustainable city.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT** the City shall cease purchasing polystyrene (resin code #6) food service ware; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** organizers of public events, businesses, families and individuals in Takoma Park are encouraged to seek and use alternatives to polystyrene (resin code #6) food service ware.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution shall become effective on September 1, 2010.

Adopted this 7th day of June, 2010.

Attest:

---

Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk