

# **Polystyrene Food Ware: A Threat to Santa Clara Waterways and the Bay**



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*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 scattered
- Second most abundant form of beach debris in California
- Ingested by fish, birds, and other wildlife
- Suffocates wetlands





# Why Ban Polystyrene?

**Polystyrene foam is an ongoing problem for local governments**

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





# Why Ban Polystyrene?

## Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission: ban polystyrene food ware by July 2012

- Ban at County/City facilities and events **by January 1, 2012.**
- Ban at all food vendors **by July 1, 2012.**
- Require only containers accepted and processed through the City's/County's landfill diversion program **by January 1, 2013**





# 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 50 jurisdictions statewide
- Rising consumer demand for Green Businesses
- High quality and affordable alternatives



# Thank you!

## Municipal Resources:

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

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