**We Can Make Williamstown Styrofoam-Free**

* Each year Americans throw away **25,000,000,000 Styrofoam cups**, enough to circle the earth 436 times.
* Styrene, a key ingredient of Styrofoam products, is a **carcinogen**. It leaches into our food and drinks and is stored in our bodies. Along with plastic bags, **polystyrene kills** untold numbers of wild and domestic animals.
* Styrofoam is generally **not recyclable**, and **does not decompose**. It is very bulky and clogs our landfills.

**We Can Reduce Litter from Plastic Bags**

* Every year, Americans discard **100 billion** single-use plastic bags, which cost retailers **$4 billion**.
* Plastic bags are **a primary source of litter**. Every square mile of the ocean has about 46,000 pieces of plastic floating in it.
* Plastic bags **never biodegra­­de**. Instead they break down into **microplastics**, which contaminate soil and waterways.



**There Are Economical Alternatives**

* There are a great **many affordable alternatives** to polystyrene food and beverage containers.
* **Large retailers** (such as Dunkin Donuts) have alternatives in place, and there are many resources for **small businesses**.
* **Reusable bags** and paper bags have replaced plastic bags in many municipalities.
* Experience has shown that **consumers adapt quickly**. Within months of implementing an ordinance banning the free distribution of bags, the number of consumers using reusable bags or taking no bag at all can reach **95% and above**.

**Hundreds of Towns Have Taken Action**

* Eight municipalities in Massachusetts (including **Amherst**, **Brookline**, **Great Barrington**, and **Somerville**) have banned polystyrene food and beverage containers and/or plastic bags.
* Bans or levies have also been passed in **New York City**, **Chicago**, **Seattle**, **Portland**, **Washington D.C.**, **Albany** County, the State of **California**, and **over a dozen countries**.

**Williamstown Can Too!**

* Let us pass a bylaw at **Town Meeting** to ban plastic bags and polystyrene in Williamstown.
* **Come** to an organizational meeting to see how **you can help**:

**Williamstown Public Library**

**Saturday, February 28, 2015**

**10:30 a.m.**

Want to get involved but can’t make the meeting? Email [brad.verter@gmail.com](mailto:brad.verter@gmail.com) or call (413) 281-0522