

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 or call (413) 281-0522