

*Information Related to a Citizen  
Petition to Town Meeting to:*

**Ban Single-Use Expanded  
Polystyrene [EPS] Styrofoam  
in Food Establishments**

Presented by,

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# Topics

- Some Basic Facts to Start
- The Petition
- Current EPS Styrofoam Use in SPS Cafeterias
- Current Waste Disposal and Recycling Efforts
- Alternatives to EPS Styrofoam
- Our Response Plan if Ban Passes
- Potential Impact to Consumers of S.P.S. Meals

# To Start...

- We care deeply about our environment
- We are not environmental experts
- We are “experts” in our field which is the delivery of public school breakfasts, lunches, and other a la carte items under the highly regulated provisions of the federal and state government.

# To Start...

- Public school food service programs should not be compared to restaurants, higher education food programs, or other institutional food service programs. This is a unique food service program.
- We have:
  - Limited financial resources
  - Limited space
  - Limited timeframes to provide meals to a large quantity of students and staff

# The Petition

## SECTION 2 EFFECTIVE DATE

This bylaw shall take effect on January 1, 2020 to allow time for food establishments and town facilities to use their existing inventory of expanded polystyrene food or beverage containers and to convert to alternative materials.

## SECTION 3 DEFINITIONS

"Disposable Food Service Container" means single-use disposable products for serving or transporting prepared, ready-to-consume food or beverages. This includes but is not limited to plates, cups, bowls, trays and hinged or lidded containers. This definition does not include single-use disposable items such as straws, cup lids, or utensils, nor does it include single-use disposable packaging for unprepared foods.

"Food Establishment" means an operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, as further defined in 105 CMR 590.002. Any establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the State Food Code, 105 CMR 590.000, et. seq., shall be considered a Food Establishment for purposes of this bylaw.

"Expanded Polystyrene" (EPS) means polystyrene that has been expanded or "blown" using a gaseous blowing agent into a solid foam.

"Polystyrene" means and includes expanded polystyrene which is a thermoplastic petrochemical material utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by any number of techniques including, but not limited to, fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, form molding, and extrusion-blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene). The term "polystyrene" also includes clear or solid polystyrene which is known as "oriented polystyrene".

"Prepared Food" means any food or beverage prepared for consumption on the Food Establishment's premises, using any cooking or food preparation technique. This does not include any raw uncooked meat, fish or eggs unless provided for consumption without further food preparation.

"Town Facility" means any building, structure, land or park owned or operated by the Town of Shrewsbury, its agents and departments.

"Town Facility Users" means all persons, societies, associations, organizations or special event promoters who require a permission to use a Town Facility. Town Facility Users also includes concession contracts with the Town, Town-managed concessions, Town-sponsored events and food services provided at the Town's expense.

# The Petition

## SECTION 4 PROHIBITION

- A. Except as provided herein, Food Establishments are prohibited from dispensing Prepared Food to customers in Disposable Food Service containers made from Expanded Polystyrene.
- B. Town Facility Users are prohibited from dispensing Prepared Food to customers in Disposable Food Service containers made from Expanded Polystyrene.

# Current Waste Disposal

[Managed by the Public Buildings Dept.]

## \*Wheelabrator Millbury

- The Wheelabrator Millbury energy-from-waste facility is capable of producing 45 MW of electricity — enough clean, renewable energy to power 47,000 homes in the Town of Millbury and surrounding Central Massachusetts communities as well as its own operations. The facility uses up to 1,500 tons of everyday waste from homes and businesses each day as a local fuel to create a local-energy ecosystem that generates reliable, renewable energy for the local utility. By using waste materials as a fuel to produce electricity, we offer an environmentally friendly waste disposal option and reduce dependence on landfills.



- \*From their website

# Current EPS Styrofoam Use in SPS Cafeterias

- Dishwashers were “mothballed” many years ago in favor of disposable products
- Approximately 425,000 EPS styrofoam trays are used annually
- There is no recycling market for these items
- All disposables are placed into the waste stream and hauled to Wheelabrator for incineration. No Shrewsbury trash is sent to landfills.



# Current Recycling Efforts



- Paper
- Cardboard
- Plastic Milk Bottles
- Metal Cans

# Alternatives If Ban Passes

- 1) Use substitute, non-EPS styrofoam products. They would still enter the waste stream and be sent to Wheelabrator under current waste hauling contract
- 2) Research feasibility of reverting back to “re-useables”
  - plastic/washable trays, plastic drinking cups, and utensils
- 3) Use substitute products and research feasibility of diverting them to a compost/landfill facility

# Alternatives If Ban Passes

- Each of the alternatives comes with increased costs and some options may be neither feasible nor desirable.

# Our Response Plan if Ban Passes

- Use substitute products and pass along cost increase to the “consumers”.
- Other alternatives, if feasible, come with significant capital and operating costs for dishwashing equipment, maintenance, chemicals, utilities [water and electricity], and staffing.

# Product Cost Differences-Impact

Description	Qty/Pkg	Annual Usage	Styrofoam			Non Styrofoam			Unit Price Difference	
			Cost/Pkg	Annual Cost	Unit Price*	Cost/Pkg	Annual Cost	Unit Price*		
Clear Hinged Container	250	40	\$ 30.40	\$ 1,216.00	\$ 0.12	\$ 42.16	\$ 1,686.40	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.05	
Portion Cup 1oz	2500	11	\$ 26.24	\$ 288.64	\$ 0.01	\$ 52.08	\$ 572.88	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.01	
Portion Cup 2oz	2500	14	\$ 20.08	\$ 281.12	\$ 0.01	\$ 54.99	\$ 769.86	\$ 0.02	\$ 0.01	
Straw Jumbo 7.75	2000	25	\$ 9.80	\$ 245.00	\$ 0.01	\$ 52.77	\$ 1,319.25	\$ 0.03	\$ 0.02	
Tray 5 Compartment	500	853	\$ 19.09	\$16,283.77	\$ 0.04	\$ 40.89	\$ 34,879.17	\$ 0.08	\$ 0.04	
Bowl 12 oz	1000	18	\$ 13.47	\$ 242.46	\$ 0.01	\$ 54.66	\$ 983.88	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.04	
Container 12oz Squat	500	14	\$ 20.71	\$ 289.94	\$ 0.04	\$ 27.36	\$ 383.04	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.01	
Container 8oz Squat	1000	39	\$ 34.24	\$ 1,335.36	\$ 0.03	\$ 64.62	\$ 2,520.18	\$ 0.06	\$ 0.03	
Plate 6"	1000	9	\$ 11.13	\$ 100.17	\$ 0.01	\$ 45.42	\$ 408.78	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.04	
Plate 9"	1000	12	\$ 11.39	\$ 136.68	\$ 0.01	\$ 108.78	\$ 1,305.36	\$ 0.11	\$ 0.10	
<b>Grand Total</b>				<b>\$ 20,419</b>			<b>\$ 44,829</b>			
<i>*Rounded up to nearest penny.</i>										
<b>Annual Price Diff.</b>							<b>\$ 24,410</b>			

# Non-Price Product Differences

<b>Styrofoam</b>	<b>Non-EPS Styrofoam Products</b>
Good for either hot or cold food items	Cold products can not be used interchangeably for hot food items
Served as insulators, keeping cold products cold and hot items hot	Products are not insulators so they can be hot to the touch
Products can be stored in wide temperature range without impact.	Clear plastic products are supposed to be stored in a cool environment. Cafeteria storage areas are not climate controlled.

# Summary Impact

- If the EPS styrofoam ban were to pass, then we would recommend a price increase to all meals in the range of \$.10 to \$.20 to cover the cost of substitute products.
  - *Current meal prices for lunch are: Elem.=\$3.25, Middle Schools=\$3.50, S.H.S.=\$3.75, Adults=\$4.25*
  - *Current breakfast price is \$2.00 at all schools*
- If passed, the ban does not take effect until January, 2020. So we would have time to conduct further research of products types, quality, and pricing before making any formal recommendation on meal prices.