



Polystyrene Foam Waste Reduction Ordinance 1st Reading

Rebecca Harvey, Sustainability Coordinator
Boynton Beach City Commission
April 6, 2021

Polystyrene Foam Ordinance Discussion

City Commission Meeting

February 2, 2021

- ▶ Follow-up from November 17, 2020 discussion
- ▶ Identified materials to regulate
- ▶ Confirmed a phased approach to implementation

Polystyrene Ordinance 1st Reading

To Whom Regulation Applies

- ▶ City Contractors and Temporary Vendors
- ▶ Individuals who rent City Facilities
- ▶ All individuals on City Property

Polystyrene Ordinance 1st Reading

Materials Regulated

Prohibited from City Property and City Facilities

- ▶ Polystyrene foam food ware (clamshell containers, cups, plates, bowls)
- ▶ Unencapsulated polystyrene foam products (coolers, ice chests, beach/pool toys)

Prohibited from Outdoor Areas of City Property

- ▶ Confetti
- ▶ Balloons

Polystyrene Ordinance Implementation

Phase 1: Staff Engagement & Administration

May - August 2021

- ▶ Office administrators and event coordinators
- ▶ Golf Course and Oceanfront Park vendors
- ▶ Educate about alternative products
- ▶ Purchasing Department: add language to City contracts
- ▶ Recreation & Parks Department: update vendor application and special event permit application
- ▶ Fire Department: update food truck inspection criteria
- ▶ CRA: update vendor application

Polystyrene Ordinance Implementation

Phase 2: “Pass On Plastics Pledge”

Launch May 2021

- ▶ Facility rentals (indoor): polystyrene foam items
- ▶ Pavilion rentals (outdoor): polystyrene foam items, balloons, and confetti
- ▶ Signing the pledge provides a rental discount
- ▶ Everyone receives informational flyer

PASS ON PLASTICS PLEDGE



Paper/Compostable
Food Ware



Recyclable Plastic
Food Ware



Reusable
Food Ware



Balloon Alternatives

Use your phone's camera app to scan the QR codes for some alternatives to reduce plastic pollution.



REFUSE disposable plastic whenever and wherever possible. Choose items that are not packaged in plastic, and carry your own bags, containers and utensils. Say "no straw, please."

REDUCE your plastic footprint. Cut down on your consumption of goods that contain excessive plastic packaging and parts. If it will leave behind plastic trash, don't buy it.

REUSE durable, non-toxic straws, utensils, to-go containers, bottles, bags, and other everyday items. Choose glass, paper, stainless steel, wood, ceramic and bamboo over plastic.

SAY NO TO BALLOONS Falsely-marketed as "biodegradable," latex balloons contain chemicals & can take years to break down.

Balloons can travel thousands of miles, polluting the most remote & pristine places. Once they do, they become a danger to any animal that comes in contact with them.

WHY REFUSE PLASTICS? Less than 10 percent of American plastic waste is recycled.

The United States ranks third among coastal nations for contributing litter, illegally dumped trash, and other mismanaged waste to its shorelines.



It's up to us to change the current flow of plastic pollution through advocacy for better product alternatives and switching to a reusables in our every day life.

What is polystyrene foam?

Polystyrene foam, commonly known as "Styrofoam," is a type of plastic manufactured from non-renewable fossil fuels and synthetic chemicals.

Polystyrene foam does not biodegrade in our lifetimes. When littered, it breaks down into small pieces, which are harder to clean up.

Polystyrene contains the chemical "styrene" which can harm human health and which may leak out over time, especially if in contact with hot, greasy, or acidic food.

Animals can mistake polystyrene foam for food or nesting materials. When ingested it often has fatal consequences.

What are the alternatives to polystyrene foam and other disposable plastic food ware?

To reduce plastic waste, use reusable plates, cups, and utensils whenever possible.

If reusable items are not practical, choose disposable items made of paper, compostable material, or recyclable plastic (marked #1, #2, and #5). These products are available at local retailers (such as Publix, Target, Walmart, and BJ's) at prices that are competitive with polystyrene foam. Scan the QR codes on the front of this flyer to find options for your next event.

Balloons and confetti are festive and fun, why are you prohibiting them?

Balloons go up, and they DO come back down—as unsightly litter or worse. Turtles and other animals mistake balloons for food and ingest them causing sickness or death. Mylar balloons, with their thin metallic coating, can be a fire hazard if they get caught up in power lines.

It's important to understand that there is no such thing as a "natural" or "biodegradable" balloon. These are plastics that are made with chemical additives, and can last years poisoning our environment.

Confetti is often made of plastic, mylar, or metallic material. Confetti is considered a micro-plastic, which is any plastic piece less than five millimeters in length. These tiny plastic pieces can be easily be washed away by rain and end up in rivers and oceans where they pose a threat to wildlife. A 2018 study from Loggerhead Marine Life Center here in Palm Beach County found that among 97 tiny juvenile sea turtles, all but one had micro-plastics in their stomachs—a saddening example of the prevalence of micro-plastics.

The City of Boynton Beach aims to do our part to protect our beautiful natural environment and wildlife. By taking the Pass on Plastics Pledge and opting for sustainable party supplies, you are doing your part as well.

Polystyrene Ordinance Implementation

Phase 3: Vendor Outreach

July - September 2021

- ▶ Vendor email
- ▶ Educational flyer (include alternative products)
- ▶ Vendor publicity (stickers, signage, social media)
- ▶ Thank You Kits (T-shirts, reusable straws and utensils, water bottles)

Polystyrene Ordinance Implementation

Phase 4: Public Outreach

October 2021 - April 2022

- ▶ GoGreenBoynton.com website
- ▶ Press release
- ▶ Newsletter and social media
- ▶ Flyers and utility bill inserts
- ▶ Green Business Recognition Program outreach
- ▶ Community partner outreach

Polystyrene Ordinance Implementation

Phase 5: Enforcement

May 2022

- ▶ Terminate contracts and permits for non-compliance
- ▶ Warning followed by fines for vendors
- ▶ Add ordinance to park signage
- ▶ Continue to educate and inform the public

THANK YOU



Rebecca Harvey
Sustainability Coordinator

HarveyR@bbfl.us

(561) 742-6494

GoGreenBoynton.com