

Dear Food and Beverage Provider, Manager, Non-Profit, Owner, Purchaser or Green Leader,

We are committed to assisting you in making an efficient transition to comply with San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority (IWMA) [Ordinance No. 2019-1 Regulating Polystyrene and Expanded Polystyrene \(EPS\) Food Containers and Products](#). This ordinance ([found here](#)), was approved by the IWMA Board of Directors in October 2019 and goes into effect **April 9th, 2020**. It requires food and beverage purveyors, and stores or businesses to stop using and/or selling resin code #6 - polystyrene or EPS.

To help you in this transition, we have created this tool kit to provide you with answers to your questions, acceptable alternatives and tips to help you prepare your staff, customers and/or non-profit group members.

TOOL KIT

Frequently Asked Questions



Photo Courtesy of Selling Energy

Why Is San Luis Obispo County Adding This Ordinance?

Since resin code #6 - polystyrene or EPS polystyrene is not biodegradable when it becomes trash (meaning it is not able to be broken down or consumed by living organisms like bacteria or fungi), products made from these materials can't decay naturally so they just sit as is. Oftentimes, these materials break down into small pieces and fragments that then pollute our land and waterways. A clean community is good for tourism and we all share a common vision to protect San Luis Obispo's economic future.

Several of our cities already have EPS bans in place, like Arroyo Grande, Grover Beach, Pismo Beach, Morro Bay, and San Luis Obispo. This ordinance will extend this ban to the entire county where we join a growing number of cities around the world in addressing the pollution to our communities, oceans, and streams. Packaging and products that are first reusable, recyclable, and/or biodegradable are the most responsible choices for San Luis Obispo County's tourist economy, its citizenry, and its environment. When packaging and products are reusable or recyclable, we transition away from the linear take-make-dispose model of consumption, to one that spares natural resources as less energy is used to produce new products.

Who Does the Ordinance Apply To?

The ordinance applies to food and beverage providers, catering companies', non-profits, stores and businesses using and/or selling resin code #6 polystyrene. A food and beverage provider means any vendor located or providing food or beverages within San Luis Obispo County and includes without limitation any store, shop, sales outlet, restaurant, grocery store, supermarket, delicatessen, food/catering truck or vehicle, including vendors located outside of the county when delivering prepared food or beverages in the county.

Are There Any Exemptions for Businesses?

The IWMA Board of Directors or designee may exempt a person and/or business from the county ordinance for one (1) non-renewable one-year period. The application must be in writing, and state that this ordinance would create an undue hardship or practical difficulty as evidenced by no alternatives being available or if such alternatives are not affordable (Review Ordinance 2019-1 [found here](#) Section 3 Definitions for definition of affordable).



Photo Courtesy of innovationexcellence.com

What Items Are Allowed? Where/How Can I Purchase These?

Allowable items are first reusable, then, recyclable and/or biodegradable. These compliant products are available from your distributor, local supply store or online. As courtesy, we have compiled a source list of compliant products with manufacturers, this list can be found in this document under [Compliant Product Options](#) section.

This list is being provided as a courtesy to help you transition, the IWMA is not recommending any one manufacturer or vendor nor can we provide references.

When Is This Effective?

The IWMA Board of Directors approved the ordinance in October 2019, and the ordinance goes into effect **April 9th, 2020**. Food and beverage providers, contractors and event promoters, non-profits, and stores and businesses are expected to comply by this date and deemed to be in the grace period until then.

What Happens If I Don't Comply?

The IWMA may inspect the premises of any food and beverage provider, contractors and event promoters, non-profits, and stores and businesses, to verify compliance; provided that the premises or event is located within the San Luis Obispo county. (Review Ordinance 2019-1 [found here](#) Section 8. Violations and Enforcement for non-compliance penalty information)



What Types of Products Are Included in This Ordinance?

All resin code #6 - polystyrene or EPS polystyrene food service ware is included for both dine-in and takeout.

This includes cups, bowls, plates, boxes, deli containers, clamshells, and trays.



In addition, all non-encapsulated coolers, containers, ice chests, marine buoys, dock floats, shipping boxes, and packing peanuts.



Photo Courtesy of pmdrecycling.com

If I Take Delivery of a Product with Resin Code #6 Polystyrene or EPS Packaging, Am I In Violation of This Ordinance?

No, this is considered an exemption from the ordinance. Remember, all Polystyrene and EPS packaging material is nonrecyclable and should be placed in your trash container.



Photo Courtesy of qstockinventory.com

What Do I Do with My Resin Code #6 Polystyrene Food and Beverage Service Ware Inventory?

We suggest that you go through your inventory during this grace period leading up to **April 9th, 2020**. After the ordinance goes into effect you should reach out to your distributor or the manufacturer of the product for credit.

There are many opportunities for growth and marketing by acting environmentally responsible. With plastic and polystyrene bans coming into play across the state, nation and around the world, now more than ever is the time to ask your distributors to support this important change.



Compliant Product Options – Food and Beverage Service Ware Alternatives

This list is being provided as a courtesy to help you transition, IWMA is not recommending any one vendor nor can we provide references. If you are a vendor who would like to be on this list, please contact us!

Vendor Name	Website / Phone	Products Available
Amazon	Amazon	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
Better Brands Food Products	Better Brands Food Products 831-724-7243	Recyclable, and biodegradable paper products and other supplies
Costco	Costco 805-541-7000	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
earthchoice	earthchoice 847-482-2000	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
Eco Products Store	Eco Products Store 888-679-7845	Recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies made from post-consumer recycled material
Genpak	Genpak 800-626-6695	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
Good Start Packaging	Good Start Packaging 866-971-9251	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
Green Paper Products	Green Paper Products 877-341-5464	Biodegradable tableware and other supplies
PJP Marketplace	PJP Marketplace 800-757-1268	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
Preserve	Preserve 888-354-7296	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
San Luis Paper	San Luis Paper 805-544-5656	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
Smart & Final	Smart & Final 5 Locations in SLO County	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
Sysco Earth Plus	Sysco	Reusable, recyclable, and biodegradable food ware and other supplies
Webstaurant Store	Webstaurant Store Live Chat	Biodegradable dinnerware & serving ware

Compliant Product Options – Other Resin Code #6 Polystyrene or EPS Alternatives

Other Resin Code #6 Polystyrene or EPS Product Alternatives		
Vendor Name	Website / Phone	Products Available
Amazon	Amazon	Biodegradable coolers and shipping solutions
EarthAware	EarthAware 773-478-6001	Biodegradable packing material
EcoEnclose	EcoEnclose 888-445-6575	Recyclable, and biodegradable shipping solutions
Igloo	Igloo	Biodegradable cooler
Papermart	Paper Mart 800-745-8800	Recyclable, and biodegradable shipping and paper supplies
Recycooler	Recycooler 888-9-RECYCOOL	Reusable and recyclable coolers
Uline	Uline 800-295-5510	Biodegradable packing peanuts
Vericool packaging	vericool packaging 925-574-7888	Recyclable thermal coolers

Talking Points for Employees



Photo Courtesy of SLO Surfrider Foundation

IT'S UP TO ALL OF US to protect the beautiful community we live and work in. The rich marine life of our ocean, estuaries, and streams is a major reason that people from around the world visit San Luis Obispo County - and why we live here too!

Ordinance 2019-1 requires that we eliminate purchasing and using resin code #6 polystyrene and EPS products since they are not recyclable or biodegradable. Moving forward, we are replacing all resin code #6 products to be either reusable or biodegradable. If biodegradable, these new products will be made of (cite new product information).

Our restaurant/store/business is proud to be a leader in protecting our environment because we know social and environmental impact is important to our customers.

In a 2015 study conducted by The Nielsen Company, they found that 66 percent of the global millennial population are willing to pay more to support brands "committed to a positive social and environmental impact."

A comparable study done in 2015 by Cone Communications found that millennials would be 87 percent more loyal to a company that supports social or environmental causes.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE SOLUTION!