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### **Why polystyrene petroleum-based plastic products should not be used**

*Submitted by: Anne Engelhardt, Yorkville Green Committee*

The United City of Yorkville Green Committee does not recommend the use of polystyrene petroleum-based plastic products for the reasons listed below.

- **Health concerns:** Handling or breathing fumes from polystyrene affects skin, eyes, lungs, stomach, intestines, and nervous system, including headache, fatigue, depression, weakness.
- **Poisonous chemicals:** Toxic chemicals leach out, especially when heated in a microwave.
- **Ozone pollutant:** In the making of polystyrene, hydrocarbons are released; in presence of sunlight, these combine with nitrous oxides and form ozone, a dangerous pollutant. Ozone can damage the human immune system.
- **Polystyrene petroleum-based plastic products litter harms animals:** When dumped or left in the environment, Styrofoam breaks into pieces that choke animals and clog their digestive systems.
- **Hazardous waste:** Polystyrene pollutes air and creates large amounts of liquid and solid waste; also 57 poisonous byproducts when burned.
- **Fills landfill space:** By volume, the amount of space used in landfills by all plastics is between 25 to 30 percent. Styrofoam products, 95% air, take the most space.
- **Oil products wasted:** Polystyrene products are made with petroleum, a non-sustainable, heavily polluting resource.
- **Not easily recycled:** While the technology for recycling polystyrene is available, the market for recycling is very small and shrinking. Many curbside recycling agencies, including the city of Yorkville's, does not accept polystyrene products.
- For complete and more detailed information: *Report from Green Restaurant Association Creating an Environmentally Sustainable Restaurant Industry.* Go to [www.earthsource.org](http://www.earthsource.org) for more information.

### **NEW! Recycle your Styrofoam Products**

- Dart Container Corporation, 310 Evergreen Drive, North Aurora accepts Styrofoam products for recycling between the hours of 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday by appointment. This facility accepts the following Styrofoam products: cups and containers, foam egg cartons-rinsed, single layer no-perforated foam meat trays, and most packaging foam (molded forms and shapes only). Flame retardant materials and packaging peanuts are not accepted. For more information call 630.896.4631 or go to [www.dartcontainer.com](http://www.dartcontainer.com).