

# Polystyrene Ban

**Whereas:** Polystyrene is an immediate danger to the destruction of the ozone layer, adds to the already existing danger of the greenhouse effect, amounts to approximately five percent of the United States landfills, and is a danger to humans and animals health;

**Whereas:** Polystyrene has helped place styrene, a mutagen, throughout the food chain;

**Whereas:** The United States Congress is threatening to outlaw chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's) by 1994, which are used to manufacture the vast majority of polystyrene;

**Whereas:** The United Nations has begun deliberations on further tightening of the Montreal Protocol, the international treaty designed to protect the ozone, which is damaged by polystyrene;

**Whereas:** Organizations such as the Sierra club, Friends of the earth, and Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste (CCHW) are lobbying for the end of polystyrene use in food service outlets;

**Whereas:** Polystyrene, like other plastics is non-biodegradable;

**Whereas:** Individual molecules of styrene cause genes to mutate and may be carcinogenic;

**Whereas:** Styrene is also known to be a powerful depressant that acts on the central nervous system and at low levels of exposure can cause vertigo, fatigue, nervousness, difficulty sleeping, loss of memory, and low blood platelet counts;

**Whereas:** Styrene monomers dissolve readily when in contact with alcohol or fat, cause styrene bleeding in the digestive system, and cause the build up of the liver;

**Whereas:** Polystyrene not only pollutes and destructs our environment, but is also a health hazard;

**Whereas:** The UWM Food Service is a large user of polystyrene in packaging food and drinks;

**Therefore be it resolved:** That the UWM food service being a phase out of polystyrene in all food service outlets

**Therefore be it resolved:** That the UWM food services stop purchasing unless it can demonstrate that is it not feasible