

## ALTERNATIVES:

- Biodegradable food service items and shipping/packaging alternatives are already widely available to meet the vast majority of food service needs.

### Examples:

- Recyclable Paperboard
- Compostable Bagasse  
*-(made from the fibers of sugarcane)*
- Biodegradable Bioplastics



## FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS:

Contact the Suffolk County  
Department of Health  
Services:

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## SUFFOLK FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Understanding the  
Local Law to Prohibit  
the Use of Polystyrene  
in Suffolk County



## WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

*The County of Suffolk is a national leader in environmental protection, as it strives to protect the natural resources and beauty of Long Island*

- Styrene has been classified as a probable human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), a non-governmental body of the World Health Organization.
- The Environmental Protection Agency has determined that the polystyrene manufacturing process is the 5th largest creator of hazardous waste in the United States.
- There is no practical method to recycle polystyrene and incineration of polystyrene releases toxic fumes.
- The use of biodegradable and/or compostable food service products will reduce the waste stream and cost of waste disposal in Suffolk County.

*The purpose of this law is to ban the use of certain polystyrene items in Suffolk County*

## HOW ARE WE ACHIEVING THIS?

**Effective January 1, 2020 Local Law 14-2019 prohibits the use of polystyrene foam containers in Suffolk County.**

- No food service establishment, mobile food commissary or store can possess, sell, or offer for use any disposable food service container that consists of polystyrene foam (also known as Styrofoam).
- No manufacturer or store can sell or offer for sale polystyrene loose fill packaging (such as packing peanuts).

## EXEMPTIONS:

- This prohibition does not apply to packaging that is used for pre-packaged foods that have been filled and sealed prior to receipt by the food service establishment, mobile food commissary, or store.
- This also does not apply to containers used to store uncooked eggs, raw meat, pork, fish, seafood, or poultry sold from a butcher case or similar retail use.
- This does not apply to the retail sale of electronics that are packaged in polystyrene loose fill packaging prior to entering the store.

