

5 GYRES

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STEP 1: FIRST, WE TOOK THE PLEDGE TO REFUSE SINGLE-USE POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS.

STEP 2: WE THEN CHECKED THE MAP FOR WHAT IS GOING AROUND IN OUR AREA REVOLVING THIS ISSUE.

1. IN SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK, A BAN WAS PASSED IN THE YEAR OF 2014 THAT REQUIRES LOCAL CHAIN RESTAURANTS TO USE BIODEGRADABLE CONTAINERS. THIS WAS ENACTED BY THE COUNTY OF THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK THIS LEGISLATURE PASSED THIS BAN BECAUSE THE LEGISLATURE FOUND THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY HAS DETERMINED THAT THE POLYSTYRENE IS VERY COMMONLY FOUND AND THAT THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS IS THE FIFTH LARGEST CREATOR OF HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

2. IN GLEN COVE, NEW YORK, A BAN WAS PASSED IN 1988 THAT LIMITS POLYSTYRENE FOODWARE.

3. IN NEW YORK CITY A BAN WAS OVERTURNED IN 2015. THIS BAN WAS SUPPOSE TO LIMIT THE PLASTIC-FOAM FOOD CONTAINERS USED ALL OVER THE CITY. YOU WOULD SEE THE PLASTIC-FOAM FOOD CONTAINERS PREDOMINANTLY IN CHINESE TAKE-OUT AND CURBSIDE HALAL FOOD. THIS PLAN WAS PROPOSED BY TWO MAYORS, MAYOR BLOOMBERG AND MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO.

4. IN RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY A BAN WAS PASSED IN 1997 THAT LIMITS POLYSTYRENE UTENSILS AND CONTAINERS FROM BEING MANUFACTURED.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR DAILY UPDATES:
[HTTPS://VBKEARTH.WIXSITE.COM/WEBSITE](https://vbkearth.wixsite.com/website)**

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STEP 3: IN ORDER TO TAKE ACTION, WE EMAILED OUR REPRESENTATIVE ON THIS ISSUE:

HELLO! WE'RE WRITING TODAY TO ASK YOU TO SUPPORT A BAN ON STYROFOAM AND POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS.

THIS IS A HUMAN HEALTH ISSUE. STYRENE IS A CARCINOGEN THAT CAN MIGRATE INTO FOOD AND DRINKS WHEN IT COMES IN CONTACT WITH HIGH-FAT OR ACIDIC FOODS. AND PEOPLE PUT POLYSTYRENE AND STYROFOAM PRODUCTS TO THEIR LIPS EVERY DAY.

AND IT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE. THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RANKS STYROFOAM MANUFACTURING AS THE FIFTH WORST GLOBAL INDUSTRY IN TERMS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE CREATION.

POLYSTYRENE AND STYROFOAM ARE DIFFICULT TO RECYCLE AND EVEN BANNED FROM MANY RECYCLING PROGRAMS BECAUSE OF CONTAMINATION PROBLEMS.

AS A RESULT, POLYSTYRENE AND STYROFOAM END UP IN LANDFILLS AND WATERWAYS; THEY ARE SOME OF THE MOST COMMON FORMS OF PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE ENVIRONMENT.

AS PART OF THE "NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY" REPORT OF 2017, LEADERS OF 15 GLOBAL BRANDS—INCLUDING DOW CHEMICAL, COCA-COLA, L'OREAL, UNILEVER, AND PROCTER & GAMBLE—RECOMMENDED THE PHASE-OUT OF POLYSTYRENE AND STYROFOAM PRODUCTS.

PLEASE SUPPORT A BAN ON POLYSTYRENE AND STYROFOAM TODAY!

- GM(N)O TEAM (ISABELLA LOK, NITISH RAJAGOPAL, EMILY GAN, AND MIN YOON.

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STEP 4: WE CREATED A POSTER, INCORPORATING KEY FACTS AND ENGAGING VISUALS TO COMMUNICATE THE IMPORTANCE OF ELIMINATING STYROFOAM

CAPTION FOR OUR POSTER:

POLYSTYRENE, ALSO KNOWN AS STYROFOAM, IS INCREDIBLY HARMFUL FOR THE PLANET. NON-BIODEGRADABLE, NON-SUSTAINABLE, AND RARELY RECYCLABLE, IT LASTS FOR MILLIONS OF YEARS IN OUR LANDFILLS, IF IT ISN'T INCINERATED INTO TOXIC WASTES. STYROFOAM MAKES UP A MAJORITY OF MARINE DEBRIS AND OTHER FORMS OF POLLUTION. EVEN THE PRODUCTION OF POLYSTYRENE PRODUCES OVER 50 CHEMICALS, RELEASING HYDROFLUOROCARBONS WHICH FURTHER DAMAGES OUR OZONE LAYER AT A TIME WHERE REPARATION IS DESPERATELY NEEDED. NOT ONLY IS STYROFOAM INCREDIBLY HARMFUL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, BUT IT ALSO HAS EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON HUMAN HEALTH. WHEN IT IS USED TO STORE FOODS, CHEMICALS CAN LEACH INTO OUR FOOD ESPECIALLY WHEN IT IS HEATED UP. THESE CHEMICALS CAN DAMAGE OUR NERVOUS SYSTEM AND ACT AS IRRITANTS TO OUR SKIN, EYES, AND RESPIRATORY TRACT. WE CAN EASILY START OUR EARTH'S RECOVERY FROM THIS ATROCITY BY UTILIZING COMPOSTABLE AND ECO-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES FOR STYROFOAM CONTAINERS. JOIN GM(N)O IN OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS A GREENER PLANET!

poster below

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