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Waste Reduction

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The City of Santa Monica Non-Recyclable Food Service Container Ban

Over 500 food vendors and all city facilities stopped using non-recyclable food containers in the City of Santa Monica

Topic Areas Addressed: Rating: 4 (out of 5)

- Waste Reduction
- Environmental Health
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On January 9, 2007 the Santa Monica City Council unanimously voted to ban the use of non-recyclable plastic disposable food service containers within Santa Monica: SMMC: 2216 (pdf)

Expanded polystyrene and non-recyclable plastic together make up the largest amount of waste that ends up on Santa Monica's beaches. At the annual Coastal Cleanup Day, 10,000 volunteers came out to clean the beaches and in three hours picked up over 75,000 lbs. of trash, most of which was identified as Styrofoam® and plastic. This plastic waste causes significant environmental damage to the beach and marine environment. It can also harm marine animals and birds who mistake it for food. Polystyrene is made from crude oil and when improperly disposed persists in the environment for hundreds of years. By banning these types of disposable plastic food containers, the ordinance will help to reduce the amount of these materials that pollute Santa Monica's beaches and the bay.

Comments

Melissa Roberts, Oakland

MY RATING: 4 STARS

I think this is a great idea... let's try it in Oakland!
Posted 4/4/2009, 1:34 PM

Adrian Elliot, San Francisco

MY RATING: 3 STARS

I don't think we could ever make this work in San Francisco. But I loved the advice you gave about public outreach... I'll use that for my plastic bag ban work! Thanks!
Posted 4/6/2009, 10:52 PM

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