The City of Rancho Cucamonga is phasing out expanded polystyrene (a.k.a. Styrofoam) food service products at all City facilities and City-sponsored events.

Expanded polystyrene, which is commonly referred to by its trademark name “Styrofoam,” is a petroleum based plastic that has increasingly negative effects on the environment. Food service products made from expanded polystyrene are a major source of litter and marine pollution, and frequently clog storm drains and waterways throughout the region. As a non-biodegradable and non-recyclable plastic, expanded polystyrene will continue to persist in the environment for hundreds to thousands of years if not managed properly.

A ban on expanded polystyrene food service products was enacted with the passage of Resolution No. 07-231, and was developed by the City as an important first step in helping to protect the environment. This ban will prohibit City facilities from purchasing and/or acquiring expanded polystyrene food service products including, but not limited to cups, plates, bowls, trays and containers. Special event vendors and facility rental groups will also be subject to the requirements of the ban, and will no longer be permitted to use or distribute expanded polystyrene food service products during their event or activities.

The City encourages all individuals, groups, businesses, and organizations to support this initiative and refrain from purchasing and using expanded polystyrene food service products. Environmentally friendly alternatives to expanded polystyrene include paper products, recyclable plastics and bio-products. Let’s all work together to help protect the environment for present and future generations.

For more information on the expanded polystyrene ban, contact the Environmental Programs Division at (909) 477-2740 ext. 4060.