**De Blasio announces NYC ban on plastic foam containers, riling food vendors**

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Fox News

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio is moving to ban city food establishments from using plastic foam containers, decrying *(condemning)* the harm they cause the environment – while leaving restaurateurs and other food vendors that rely on the materials in a bind (*in a tight or awkward situation).*

New York will now be the largest city in the country -- following San Francisco, Seattle and Portland, Oregon -- to prohibit the foam containers, which environmental groups have long decried *(condemned)* as a hazard that clogs the nation's landfills.

"These products cause real environmental harm and have no place in New York City," said de Blasio in a statement announcing the ban on Thursday. "We have better options, better alternatives, and if more cities across the country follow our lead and institute similar bans, those alternatives will soon become more plentiful and will cost less."

The ban is set to take effect July 1.

The Restaurant Action Alliance, a lobbying group, condemned the decision, suggesting that it would increase costs for eateries while saying that the city should instead focus on creating a plan to recycle the material.

1. What is the argument against banning Styrofoam?

Administration officials said the ban will have a grace period, without fines, until January 2016.

The ban would affect food establishments from sit-down restaurants to food carts to Chinese takeout, barring them from using plastic foam cups or containers. Packing peanuts will also not be allowed to be sold within the city, though peanuts can still be placed within packages that are shipped to New York from elsewhere.

Administration officials believe that the ban will remove nearly 30,000 tons of expanded polystyrene from the city's streets, waterways and landfills, and it continues de Blasio's push to create a greener New York City. Last year, he announced an ambitious plan to cut its greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 from its 2005 levels.

"While much of the waste we produce can be recycled or reused, polystyrene foam is not one of those materials," said Sanitation Commissioner Kathryn Garcia. "Removing polystyrene from our waste stream is not only good for a greener, more sustainable New York, but also for the communities who are home to landfills receiving the city's trash."

1. Do you support the ban against Styrofoam in New York City? Why or why not?

**Homework:**

What is San Francisco’s ”zero waste” policy?

Do you believe it’s effective? Why or why not?

Source: