



2018 Issue Brief:

Support Recycling Foodservice Packaging and Oppose Local Bans or Mandates

POSITION: The Minnesota Restaurant Association supports effective recycling programs for foodservice packaging and opposes local bans or mandates. Collaborative work between stakeholders and interested parties and the success of paper and plastic recycling programs around the country have created an opportunity for increased foodservice packaging recycling. Mandates and bans on foodservice packaging are not the most environmentally or economically responsible approach to managing foodservice packaging disposal.

SUPPORTING STATEMENTS:

- Minneapolis and St. Louis Park have implemented local ordinances that require all foodservice packaging to be reusable, returnable, recyclable or compostable. The ordinances include a ban on the use of expanded polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) packaging.
- Minneapolis and St. Louis Park are the only communities out of almost 200 cities in the metro area that have taken action to ban certain types of packaging.
- Most cups for hot or cold beverages or soup are made from poly coated paper. That material is recyclable and should not be prohibited.
- Polystyrene, both rigid and expanded, is being recycled in other communities and could also be recycled here.
- Resistance to expanded recycling in the metro area by recycling vendors will add costs and reduce options for local restaurants and their customers.
- Most residential recycling programs accept plastic types one through seven in “single sort” programs. Restaurants should have the same options.