



CITY OF KIRKLAND

123 Fifth Avenue, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3000
www.ci.kirkland.wa.us

MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Ramsay, City Manager

From: Betsy Adams, Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist

Date: February 4, 2009

Subject: Response to email from Karen Story, Kirkland resident, re. Styrofoam ban request

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter responding to the email received requesting City Council to consider banning Styrofoam food service containers.

BACKGROUND:

On December January 30, 2009, Karen Story, a Kirkland resident, sent an email (Attachment A) to City Council members. In this email, she requested that the City Council consider banning expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) food service containers.

Attached is the response (Attachment B) that was sent to Ms. Story. In summary, the response recognizes Ms. Story's concern and discusses actions that the City is currently taking to reduce the use of expanded polystyrene and to reduce waste in general.

For more information, please contact Betsy Adams at x3858.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A Email from Karen Story, Subject: Request to ban Styrofoam "to go" containers
- B Response letter from Mayor Lauinger

From: karen@tinyisland.com [mailto:karen@tinyisland.com]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:28 AM
To: KirklandCouncil
Cc: Betsy Adams
Subject: Request to ban styrofoam "to go" containers

Dear City Council,

As I'm sure you all know, the City of Seattle has recently banned the use of styrofoam "to go" containers, and will require restaurants to switch to either recyclable or compostable containers and silverware by July 2010.

Has the City of Kirkland considered such a measure? I would strongly support it!

Sincerely,
Karen Story
9017 Slater Ave NE
Kirkland 98033
(No postal mail reply needed)

February 18, 2009

DRAFT

Ms. Karen Story
9017 Slater Ave NE
Kirkland 98033

RE: Email - Subject: Request to ban styrofoam "to go" containers

Dear Ms. Story,

Thank you for your email dated January 30, 2009. We share your concerns about expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) food service products. Polystyrene, a petroleum product, has many detrimental environmental effects including the chemicals released during the polystyrene manufacturing process, the lack of opportunities to recycle it in Washington, the volume of landfill space consumed by polystyrene products, and the non-biodegradable nature of polystyrene that makes it a major contributor to the litter found along our roadways and in our waterways.

The City of Kirkland applauds the City of Seattle's efforts and will closely monitor the implementation the two phases of the ban. City staff is currently researching waste reduction measures, including polystyrene bans, which have been implemented in other municipalities. Through this research, they hope to find and implement the measures that would be the best fit for our community.

The City of Kirkland is also currently working to take steps to reduce the use of polystyrene. For instance, City special events and solid waste staff are working with Kirkland Uncorked event planners to require food vendors at this year's event to use compostable plates. Vendors will be encouraged to purchase and provide additional alternative compostable food service products such as cups and silverware. The City will partner with Waste Management to provide composting service at the event.

If you have other thoughts or ideas for waste reduction measures in Kirkland, please contact Betsy Adams, Public Works Education and Outreach Specialist, at (425)587-3858 or badams@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

Sincerely,
Kirkland City Council

By James L. Lauinger, Mayor

CC: Daryl Grigsby, Director of Public Works
Jenny Gaus, Senior Stormwater Utility Engineer
Betsy Adams, Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist
John MacGillivray, Solid Waste Coordinator