



University of the West Green Committee

Styrostomp

Chair: Dr. Chi Sheh, Vice-Chair: Judy Hsu , Secretary: Lorena Gonzalez, UWSG Liaison: Aarond Qian, Juan Tinoco, Dennyses Hernandez, Eddie Chong

green.uwest.edu





Introduction of the Green Committee

- Our Mission:

1. Recommend and implement actions that promote environmental sustainability.
2. Enhance communication in the community regarding our environmental efforts and best practices.
3. Provide a forum for environmental sustainability issues and fostering collaborations from all areas of our community.



‘Styrofoam’ Problem¹

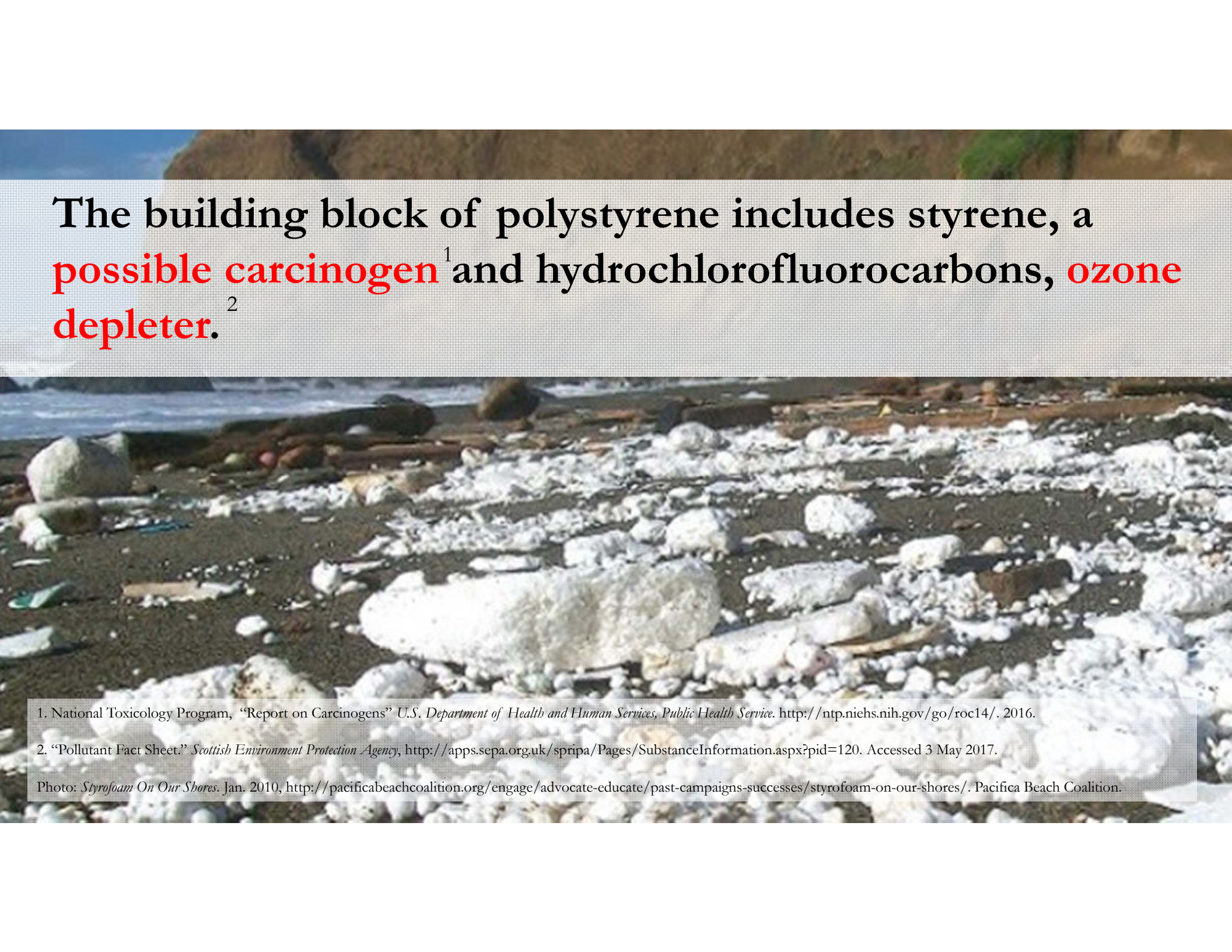
Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) – ‘Styrofoam’ (a trademark that became the common name, i.e. Kleenex) – is a **sustainability problem.**

1. Subsequent slides w/ information summarized from: Heverly, Stephen, et al. *Recommendations for Reducing or Banning Foam Food Service Containers*. Center for Sustainable Energy, Mar. 2017, https://energycenter.org/sites/default/files/Guide_for_Polystyrene_Reduction_Policies.pdf.

Persistence



Breaks down into smaller pieces, but **not biodegradable**.
Will persist into many generations after us, 500+ years, in smaller, even more harmful parts.



The building block of polystyrene includes styrene, a **possible carcinogen**¹ and hydrochlorofluorocarbons, **ozone depleter**.²

1. National Toxicology Program, "Report on Carcinogens" U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/roc14/>. 2016.

2. "Pollutant Fact Sheet." Scottish Environment Protection Agency, <http://apps.sepa.org.uk/sripa/Pages/SubstanceInformation.aspx?pid=120>. Accessed 3 May 2017.

Photo: *Styrofoam On Our Shores*. Jan. 2010, <http://pacificabeachcoalition.org/engage/advocate-educate/past-campaigns-successes/styrofoam-on-our-shores/>. Pacifica Beach Coalition.

Carrier of Toxins

Floats and carries toxins, **causing illnesses** in marine animals and wildlife when eaten.

We are endangering the **animals** all around us, and **ourselves** as well.



Photo: Falardeau, Marc. *A Squirrel Eating Styrofoam Cups up in a Tree*. 31 May 2010. Flickr.com, *Wikimedia Commons*, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:A_squirrel_and_his_styrofoam_cups.jpg.



Photo: *Styrofoam On Our Shores*. Jan. 2010, <http://pacificabeachcoalition.org/engage/advocate-educate/past-campaigns-successes/styrofoam-on-our-shores/>. Pacifica Beach Coalition.

Disposal

Costs **\$30 million**
per year for
disposal just in
California.
Without proper
disposal...





WHAT GOES IN THE OCEAN GOES IN YOU.

RECENT STUDIES ESTIMATE THAT FISH OFF THE WEST COAST INGEST OVER 12,000 TONS OF PLASTIC A YEAR. FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP TURN THE TIDE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AT WWW.SURFRIDER.ORG/RAP

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RISE ABOVE PLASTICS.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP TURN THE TIDE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION AT WWW.SURFRIDER.ORG/RAP

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Case At UWest

- In a five day period during this Spring semester, a total of 258 Styrofoam products were used in the dining hall. (Plastic utensils and Styrofoam cups were not included in this report).
 - Note: This figure was taken during a slow period, number could be up to **3x higher** during peak periods.
- According to Dining Hall staff (Bevaris), a large number of people request takeout and still eat in the dining hall, creating unnecessary waste.





Potential Solutions

- Replace the current take out containers that are being used to something that is biodegradable.
- Require students to bring their own reusable takeout container.
- Charge anyone that decides to do take out between \$0.25 to \$1.00. By charging we are discouraging them to want to do take and offset the cost of the biodegradable containers.





Real Time Vote



<http://green.uwest.edu>

→ VOTE

