

I certainly understand being a good Environmental Steward and curbing the use of takeout containers like styrofoam is one small aspect in the fight to clean our environment. There are alternatives to polystyrene containers that could be used, but not all are recyclable. All of them have a much higher Co2 footprint to manufacture than styrofoam. Those alternatives: aluminum, molded fiber, and wax or poly-coated paper to name a few, are about 75% higher in cost than traditional styrofoam. There are a lot of compostable takeout containers to choose from that would be a good alternative to styrofoam since they have some insulating benefits and decompose quicker. Insulating containers are important to the consumer, they keep their food and beverage hot or cold and in some cases, safe.

At Chasco, our biggest cup producer is beer, which is not sold in styrofoam cups. Most of our vendors use styrofoam cups for coffee or hot chocolate (not a big seller), cold drinks are sold in cans. Some of our vendors use plastic food containers, some use paper to wrap sandwiches and offer paper plates to eat from. Food at Chasco is sold in styrofoam containers but we don't generate a large amount as compared to the annual waste of local restaurants and food trucks.

Even if we replace containers with recyclable types, we have to hope it goes into the proper waste disposal receptacle. Most people **do not** dispose of their recyclables in the proper receptacle, it generally gets buried in the garbage cans. I've seen this first hand with picking up garbage bags at Chasco.

In summary: Chasco could move away from styrofoam with some cost impact to the vendors. I estimate a revenue loss to a vendor of \$150-\$200 per thousand takeout containers.

An article from Science Daily dated Dec 2018 stated:

The study found that the styrofoam container was the best option among the disposable containers across all the impacts considered, including the carbon footprint. For example, the styrofoam container had 50% lower carbon footprint than aluminum and three times lower than the plastic. This is because of the lower amount of materials and energy used in the production of styrofoam compared to the other two types of container.

Al Renedo
Operations, Chasco Fiesta