

# Recycling Works

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*Toronto Packaging Waste Reduction Forum*

September 10, 2008



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## Film & Bags Get Recycled into Valuable Products



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## The Recycling of Film & Bags Happens Right Here In Elmira ON



EFS-plastics Inc.



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## Toronto Has the Opportunity To Recycle All of Bags

- The film and bag stream comprises the following:
  - Not only retail carry-out bags (the minor portion)
  - 2/3 rd's of Film Generation is :
    - bread bags, vegetable bags, overwrap for toilet paper, paper towels, for diapers, dry cleaning bags, milk pouches, newspaper bags, frozen food bags
- Second largest stream of plastics that Toronto could divert



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## Food & Service Polystyrene Packaging Is 100% Recyclable



## Food and Service Polystyrene Gets Recycled Into Valuable Products



## Polystyrene Food And Service Packaging Gets Recycled Right Here in Mississauga



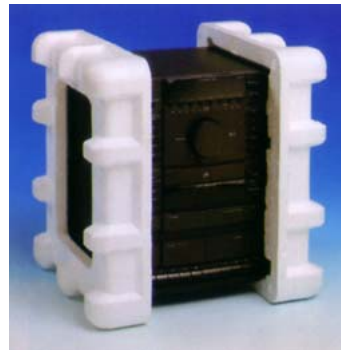
CPRA Recycling Facility



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## Polystyrene White Cushion Packaging Can Also Be Recycled



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## Polystyrene White Cushion Packaging Is Made Into Valuable Fireproofing Products

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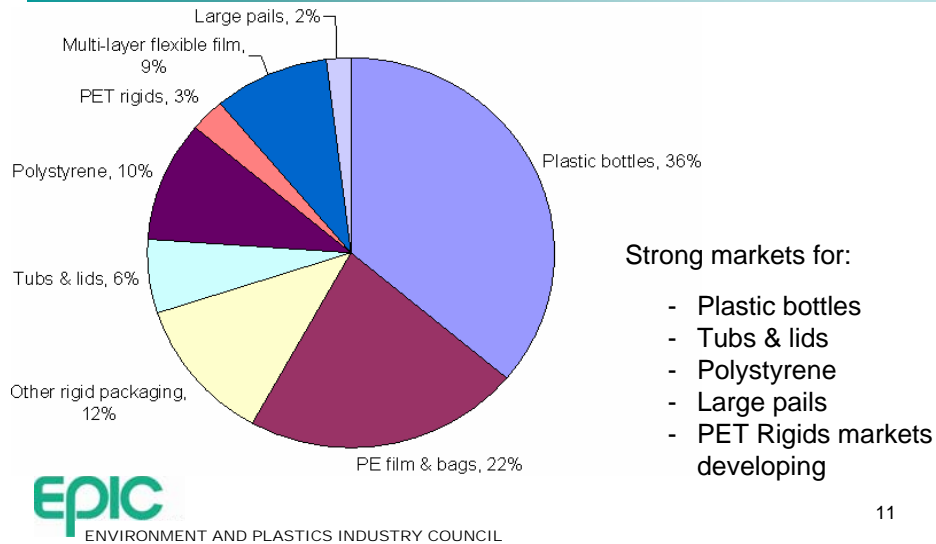
## Polystyrene White Cushion Packaging For Durables Gets Recycled in Ajax

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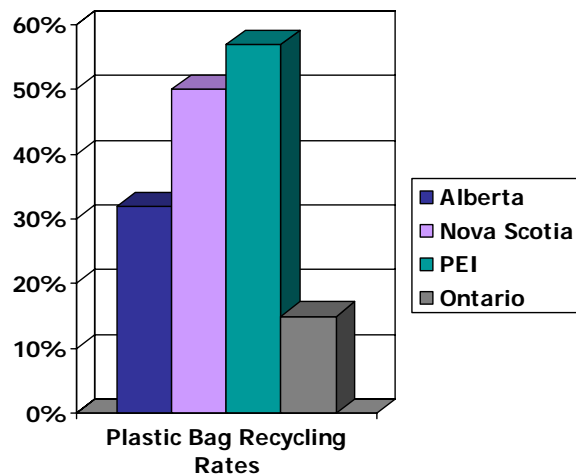
Grace Canada Recycling Facility

## Close to 80% of Plastic Packaging Is Recyclable and has Markets



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## Other Jurisdictions Have Very High Recycling Rates – e.g. Plastic Shopping Bags



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## Toronto Has the Opportunity To Do Better On Its Existing Plastics Recycling

Municipal Large Urban Group	Plastic Marketed (kgs/hhid)
HALTON	11
HAMILTON	11
LONDON	10
PEEL	12
<b>TORONTO</b>	<b>5</b>
YORK	13
Average	11

- On average, Toronto collects **55% less plastics** per household than other municipal programs



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## Retail Carry-Out Bags Are Fundamental to Toronto's Organics Program

- 68% of retail carry-out bags are reused, many for Toronto's organics program
- Without these bags citizens would have to buy bags or bear higher cost
  - Barriers to participation
- Impact: Lower diversion and more organics to landfill without free carry-out bags



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## Bans & Taxes Just Don't Work

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- 96 jurisdictions across Canada have rejected bag bans
- Globally, the U.K., Scotland, Italy, E.U., New Zealand, and China have all rejected bans on bags
- New York City, Chicago, Austin TX, and State of California have all moved to plastic carry-out bag recycling



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## Bans and Taxes Will Not Necessarily Lead to Reduced Waste

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- The alternatives lead to more material going to landfill and in most cases, more greenhouse gas emissions
- **IRELAND:** Bag tax led to a 90% reduction in conventional plastic bags, but a **21% increase** in plastic consumed as people substituted heavier plastic kitchen catchers not subject to the bag tax
- **NO CHANGE IN PLASTIC BAG LITTER** – Less than 1% before the tax, less than 1% after the tax.
- **Scotland-** ERDC's study of Ireland concluded that such bans/taxes lead to higher environmental impacts when plastic bags are substituted with other materials



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## French Carrefour LCA Study Confirms Paper Grocery Bags Have Higher Environmental Footprint

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Consumption of nonrenewable energy	Paper 2.2 times more than plastic
Consumption of water	Paper 4.7 times more than plastic
Emissions of greenhouse gases	Paper 3.1 times more than plastic
Emission of acid gases	Paper 2.7 times more than plastic
Eutrophication	Paper 18 times more than plastic



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Note: PriceWaterhouseCoopers & Ecobilan April 2004

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## There Can Be Serious Unintended Consequences

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- San Francisco's decision to mandate compostable plastic bags **killed recycling of film and bags**
- Taiwan's ban on plastic bags in the quick-service sector led to massive increases in greenhouse gases and waste to landfill



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## Real Science & Life Cycle Analyses Being Ignored

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- Seattle's ban on PS quick-service packaging runs counter to the city's own life-cycle findings.
- LCA shows ban has negative impacts
  - Higher energy use (114% more)
  - More carbon emissions (134% more)
  - More waste (140% more)
  - And, It will cost consumers dearly (69% more)



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## 3 R's Approaches Are Most Effective To Deal With Consumption and End of Life Issues

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- 3 "R's" empower and educate consumers to change their behaviour
- If you don't have consumers buy-in it will lead to Civil disobedience:
  - South Africa– Black Market
  - Bhutan have just ignored the ban and continued to use the bags
  - Ireland had to increase the tax from 22-cents to over 30-cents a bag



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## Toronto Wants Service Packaging Reduced

- Think, what would you do without these?



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## Food Safety Must Be Paramount

- There are real and present dangers: Maple Leaf
- There are some 11 million cases of Food Poisoning a year in Canada
- These are not just related to processing, but also handling, cross-contamination, and bacterial issues
- Mandated changes to the way food is packaged in-store forces the retailer to be liable for a food safety system that they can no longer completely control.



E-Coli found on beef & vegetables



Salmonella found on poultry

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## Would You Risk Getting Samonella?

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- Let's look at an example:
- Current packaging format is designed to contain any leakage & prevent cross contamination with other food products
- Toronto is targeting this type of packaging for elimination



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## Toronto's Plans to Reduce Service Packaging Penalizes Local Businesses

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- Could drive consumers to shop outside Toronto
- Puts extra costs on Toronto businesses
- Creates an unlevel playing field that favours goods packaged off-site, not in Toronto

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## Many Businesses Are Already On-Side with At-Store Packaging Recycling



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## EPIC Is Building Partnerships with Municipal Governments & Retailers

**Recycle Your Plastic Bags!**

**You can *Take-Back* your Plastic Bags for Recycling!**

York Region is promoting the Plastic Bag *Take-Back* Program in partnership with local retailers and the Canadian Plastics Industry Association.

Did you know you can recycle plastic shopping bags at your local participating retail stores?

**It's easy!**  
Just turn your plastic shopping bag inside out, stuff them into one bag and drop them off at a *Take-Back* receptacle found at a participating store near you.

Recycling your plastic bags will keep them from landfill. **York Region**

**PLASTIC BAG TAKE-BACK PARTNERS**

WAL-MART, Loblaws, Jobey, Longo's, Superstore, Foodland, Sobeys, Fortinos, Zehrs, IGA

For more information, please contact York Region at 1-877-464-9675 or visit [www.york.ca/waste](http://www.york.ca/waste)

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## EPIC Working With Toronto

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- To provide markets and add Polystyrene and Plastic Bags/Film to Blue Box
- EPIC is working with Toronto on developing a recycling market for PET food service packaging **which does not currently exist**
  - PET thermoformed 26% more dense than PS
  - runs counter to reduction



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## Recycle Toronto

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Let's work on achieving real diversion gains & changing consumer behaviour without compromising public health & safety



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# Contact

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