

It must have seemed like a good idea at the time...



Lightweight, durable and cheap. What's not to love about packing peanuts?

Well, as it turns out, plenty.

Polystyrene packing peanuts come with an environmental impact that can't be ignored when looking at the true cost of the goods they protect in shipment.

The factories that produce polystyrene contaminate the air and water nearby. The peanuts, which are made from petroleum, litter our streets, fill our landfills or wash into rivers, lakes and streams. And they never, ever completely break down in the

environment. In fact, every polystyrene peanut ever made is still here, somewhere.

The good news is that your town can do something about it. Adopting a "green purchasing" policy will ensure that everything the town buys comes in biodegradable or recyclable packaging.

For a sample policy, more ideas from government agencies and non-profit organizations, plus links to alternatives to polystyrene peanuts, click on the new greenweb: HowGreenIsMyTown.org.



"How Green Is My Town?" is a project of Grassroots Environmental Education, a non-profit organization.

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