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Mayor calls for
Styrofoam ban,
boost in
recycling
and more
electric
cars

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**MIKE'S
GREEN DREAMS**

(MAYOR BLOOMBERG: GETTY)



(GETTY)

**RED-HOT
RUNWAY**

Fashion Week
ends with
some flash

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Mike not a fan of the 'foam'

BY TIM HERRERA
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The city's main to-go food container has got to go, the mayor said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg on Thursday proposed a ban of all Styrofoam food containers in the city, saying the material is destructive to the environment and a burden on taxpayers.

"Something that we know is environmentally destructive, that is costing taxpayers money, and that is easily replaceable, is something we can do without," Bloomberg said during his 12th and final State of the City address.

"So with Speaker [Christine] Quinn and the City Council, we will work to adopt a law banning Styrofoam food packaging from our stores and restaurants," he said.

Bloomberg added that Styrofoam increases the cost of recycling by up to \$20 per ton, and that it is "virtually impossible to recycle and never biodegrades."

The ban — which needs to be passed by the City Council — is one part of Bloomberg's sweeping green initiatives for the remainder of his final term.

The initiatives also include doubling the city's recycling rate to 30% by 2017, a push for more electric cars and accommodations for them, and reducing the city's carbon footprint by 30% over the next 10 years.

Some store owners said a Styrofoam ban could hurt business.

"For the customers, putting their hot food in plastic containers would be bad — those can melt," said Hong Yoo, a manager at Bryant Market deli on Sixth Avenue.

"We supply Styrofoam because there's a demand for it," he said, adding that it "costs less than plastic."

Dunkin' Donuts, which uses Styrofoam for its coffee

MAYOR'S TO-DO LIST FOR CITY

Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave his 12th and final State of the City Thursday, highlighting some of his final plans for New York and saying that the five boroughs have never been stronger.

Along with his major policy pushes, including marijuana law reform and a Styrofoam ban, here are some of the other key points of his address:

● **Infrastructure improvements:** Bloomberg discussed a handful of projects he hopes to complete by the end of his term, including rezoning midtown east, building a third water tunnel



for the city's drinking water, completing the No. 7 train extension and finishing the third section of the High Line.

● **Tourism:** Touting the city's record 52 million tourists last year, Bloomberg said he wants to pass legislation to make

the city a more "youth-friendly tourism destination," legalizing for-profit youth hostels.

● **Progress on schools:** Citing the 40% rise in high school graduation rates since 2005, Bloomberg said he wants the city to adopt Common Core standards and new state exams, for grades three through eight, in math, science, writing and reading. The mayor also wants to add 100,000 new classroom seats to the city's public schools, among other plans.

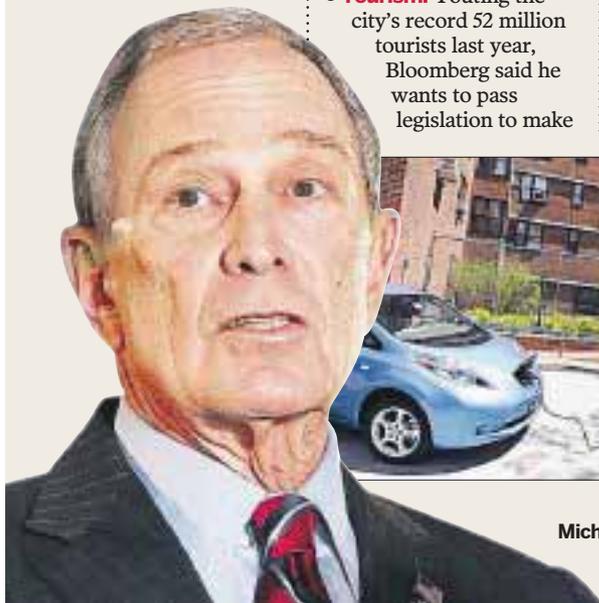
● **Electric cars:** Bloomberg announced a pilot program for curbside car chargers that will let drivers refill their battery in as little as 30 minutes, adding that by 2020 he wants one-third of the city's official cars to be electric.



● **Digital infrastructure:** Hoping to work on "data projects that can improve public services," the mayor announced Code Corps, which will be a program of "vetted volunteer technologists" to "realize lifesaving city government initiatives in emergency and disaster situations." He also said he wants more Wi-Fi in the city.

● **Public housing:** "Hurricane Sandy made painfully clear just how much NYCHA's aging housing stock is suffering from decades of federal disinvestment," Bloomberg said. He highlighted plans to build housing on underused NYCHA sites and improve conditions for residents at those development areas.

(TIM HERRERA)



Michael Bloomberg delivered his final State of the City address Thursday at Barclays Center. (GETTY)

cups, said a "viable cup solution does not exist today."

"A polystyrene ban will not eliminate waste or increase recycling; it will simply replace one type of trash with another," Dunkin' Donuts spokeswoman Sarah Grill said.

Still, some New Yorkers agree with the ban.

"I'm for it. I like to be health conscious and environmentally friendly," said Sue Jun, 28, of the West Village.

"If it would increase the price, I'd still support it, but

only if it didn't increase the price too much," she said.

Lindsay Chamberlain, 22, who works in Midtown, agreed.

"I'm all for it and a ban on things that are bad for the environment," she said. "I think it could be good for the city."

Either way, as with Bloomberg's bans on trans fats, large soda cups and smoking in bars, the only option may be acceptance.

"I mean, if Bloomberg bans something then it's final," Yoo said. "What can you do?" (WITH ANNA SANDERS)



Some pot penalties will be eased. (GETTY)

Less 'joint' time for pot

The penalty for getting busted with a little bit of pot is about to get lighter.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said during his State of the City address Thursday that starting next month, an arrest for a small amount of marijuana will be a violation rather than a misdemeanor, and anyone with a valid ID and no warrants will not have to stay in jail overnight. Offenders will receive a ticket and a court date.

"There's more we can do to keep New Yorkers, particularly young men, from ending up with a criminal record," he said.

"Commissioner [Ray] Kelly and I support Gov. [Andrew] Cuomo's proposal to make possession of small amounts of marijuana a violation ... but we won't wait for that to happen," he said, adding the change will let police put "resources where they're needed most."

Cuomo last month proposed decriminalizing the possession of less than 15 grams of marijuana. (TIM HERRERA)

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