

June 2019, Issue 50



### SafeSourcing e-Newsletter

Have comments, questions, or suggestions about the SafeSourcing e-Newsletter? Let us know what you think by emailing us at the following address. We look forward to hearing from you!

[events@safesourcing.com](mailto:events@safesourcing.com)

#### Trivia!

What is a Pyramidion?

[www.safesourcing.com](http://www.safesourcing.com)

## Industry News

### “Fun-Gi” Packaging

In an effort to decrease waste and increase recycling, IKEA is looking into biodegradable mycelium “fungi” packaging. “It’s no secret polystyrene is devastating to the environment. But did you know how exactly that is so? According to a fact-sheet provided by Harvard, polystyrene - which is made from petroleum, a non-sustainable, non-renewable, heavily polluting and fast-disappearing commodity – is not biodegradable, as it takes thousands of years to break down. In addition, it is detrimental to wildlife that ingests it.” Humans continue to dump an estimated 14 million tons of it annually. If this Styrofoam pollution continues, it is estimated that by 2050, 99% of the birds on the planet will have plastic in their guts.

Mycelium is part of the fungi that acts as its roots. Mass branch fibers grow and attach to soil or whatever surface it is grown on. Ecovative, an American company, is responsible for developing this Styrofoam alternative, or “Mushroom Packaging“. The mycelia grow around clean agricultural waste, such as corn stalks or husks. After a few days, the fungi fibers bind the waste together, forming a solid shape. It is then dried to prevent further growth. The packaging can be disposed of in the garden where it biodegrades within weeks. ■

*Global Citizen, 5/5/2019*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1	Mushrooms
2	Waste Decrease
2	Trivia! Answer

### COMING NEXT ISSUE

Jul.	Answer to our Trivia!
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### Recent Savings

#### Olive Oil

Savings were over 18% of total spend. ■

#### Mayonnaise

Savings were over 30% of total spend. ■

\*Please [contact SafeSourcing](#) to schedule your RISK FREE event today.

## Maine To Become First State to Ban Styrofoam

Janet Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, recently signed a bill into law banning Styrofoam (also known as polystyrene). The law will go into effect on January 1, 2021. This will prohibit restaurants, coffee shops, caterers, and grocery stores from using Styrofoam containers as they cannot be recycled. It is reported that those violating the law can face a \$100 fine. Plastic foam containers are one of the top 10 commonly littered items in the U.S. More than 256 million pieces of disposable plates, cups, platters and trays are used annually in Maine alone.

Styrofoam is difficult to clean up as it breaks down into smaller pieces. The foam also absorbs toxins faster than plastic, and it is often mistaken as food by marine life. The toxins marine life ingest make it into the food chain and eventually into people. ■

*Natalia Gianluca Mezzofiore, CNN, 5/1/2019*

## Starbucks Decreases Waste in Their Business

On average, 600 million plastic and paper cups are distributed globally, and although Starbucks only accounts for one percent, they are investing in finding greener solutions. Starbucks has continued to reduce the environmental impact of their cups and lids. In 1997, Starbucks developed the cup sleeve which replaced their double-cupping practice. In 2006, Starbucks began manufacturing paper cups that used 10% post-consumer recycled fiber, the first of its kind in the food packaging industry to be approved by the USDA. "In 2018, Starbucks, in partnership with Closed Loop Partners, launched a global effort to bring together entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and recyclers to identify and commercialize the next generation of recyclable and/or compostable cup solutions via the NextGen Cup Consortium Challenge. And, we have also committed to phasing out plastic straws from our 29,000 stores worldwide by 2020, eliminating more than 1 billion straws a year." Plastic straws will be provided by request only. Since 1985, Starbucks customers receive a discount when they bring in their own cup or tumbler. In 2013, Starbucks launched a \$2 reusable cup. ■

*www.Starbucks.com/responsibility/environment/recycling, 5/17/2019*

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q:** How can I subscribe or unsubscribe to these newsletters?

**A:** You can subscribe or unsubscribe to these free newsletters by simply going to our [website](#), and clicking the option "e-Newsletter" or by contacting us directly at [events@safesourcing.com](mailto:events@safesourcing.com)

**Q:** I have run events in the past, is there any chance I could be saving more?

**A:** Yes. No matter when your past event ran, the team at SafeSourcing can find ways for your company to save.

**Q:** I want to know more about what SafeSourcing does. Who can I talk to about this?

**A:** You can contact a customer services representative by calling us at 1-888-261-9070 or by going to our [website](#) and trying our "Risk Free Trial" offer.

### Trivia! From May 2019 Issue

What is a Pick and Axe Company?

The term "pick and axe" gets its name from the business practice of backing the companies that sell to miners, selling picks and axes. Pick and axe strategy was also implemented during the gold rush when prospectors needed picks and axes (and other supplies) to mine for gold. In the business-to-business world, pick and axe or equipment companies are believed to be the profit centers of the future.

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