



## Facts about EPS

EPS is 98% air. This makes EPS a uniquely resource-efficient material with a small carbon footprint.

EPS is extremely lightweight; this helps to reduce fuel consumption, when products are transported compared to other heavier materials.

Thousands of tonnes of EPS are recycled every year in the UK. As a single polymer EPS is straightforward to recycle.

EPS is HFC, CFC and HCFC free. Pentane is used as its blowing agent, which also has a low Global Warming Potential\* (GWP) of less than five. (The EU does not register pentane as a substance hazardous to human health or the environment.)

Styrene, used in the manufacture of EPS, occurs naturally in many commonplace products including strawberries, beans, nuts, beer, wine, coffee beans and cinnamon.

In combustion the amount of carbon monoxide and particulates given off by EPS is a small fraction of that emitted by wood or cardboard.

EPS is inert and innocuous and provides stability in landfill because it does not biodegrade and leach chemicals into the water system or gases into air that could contribute to global warming.

The manufacture of EPS is a low pollution process. Steam is the key ingredient and the water is re-used many times. There is no waste in the process as all cut off or rejects are re-used.

Only 0.1% of total oil consumption is used to manufacture EPS.

*\* Global warming potential (GWP) is a means of measuring the strength of different 'greenhouse' gases in the atmosphere and can be used to define the impact greenhouses gases have on global warming over specified periods of time. As an example CO has a GWP of 1 over 100 years. All other greenhouse gases HFC, CFC HCFC and methane are measured relative to CO<sub>2</sub>.*

