



**Alberta  
Emerald  
Foundation**

Emerald Youth Grants

**Study Guides**

# Styro-Go Canada Inc.



**30th Annual Emerald Award Recipient**

Waste Management



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## About the Alberta Emerald Foundation



*We're Alberta's environmental good-news storytellers!*

The Alberta Emerald Foundation (AEF) is nonprofit organization that showcases and inspires our province's environmental achievements through the annual Emerald Awards. Through our Sharing Stories Communications Strategy, the incredible work of Emerald recipients is highlighted and celebrated year-round. What began as the Emerald Awards in 1992 has evolved into an ongoing conversation.

The AEF empowers the next generation by providing grants to youth-led and youth-targeted environmental initiatives in our province. The Emerald Educational Engagement Grants Program funds up to 30 groups a year for their dream environmental project inspired by the Emerald Documentary Series, What On EARTH Can We Do? Podcast, and Emerald Speakers Series. After finding inspiration from this content featuring Emerald recipients, submit your pitch to us online. If it's accepted, you will receive \$750, thanks to our sponsor Syncrude Canada Ltd., to make your project a reality.

We encourage you to use this study guide as a resource to help you along in your project's journey. For more information, please visit

[www.emerald.foundation.ca](http://www.emerald.foundation.ca)

# Overview

*What they're all about*

Styro-Go recycles **polystyrene** onsite for clients. There is virtually no other option for polystyrene **recycling** in Alberta for both residential and Industrial/Commercial producers. Styro-Go processes polystyrene waste, a generally **singleuse**, hard to recycle plastic from residential sources as well as furniture & appliance, technology, pharmaceutical, and even forestry companies across Alberta. Styro-Go's efforts are reducing waste and extending the life of **landfills** across Alberta.

Styro-Go's trucks are custom made self-contained recycling units. Each 5 ton truck can process and carry as much as 5 full size (53 foot) transport trailers of material- in just one small 5 ton truck! Our truck shows up, the loose material is put into our machine that crushes and **densifies** it- a ratio of 90:1. A 53 foot trailer of loose material will reduce in a few hours to half the size of a conventional fridge. The material goes through the machine, we pack the outflow into bricks about 1 cubic foot in size, each weighing about 60 lbs. These bricks (sometimes called "Ingots") are packed and wrapped on a pallet and offloaded at the warehouse ready to be shipped to a recycler.



Prior to the launch of Styro-Go most people didn't even know polystyrene was recyclable. This misunderstanding has been actively promoted by many **municipalities** over the years since the conventional recycling method was very costly.

By recycling polystyrene, they are:

- Extending the lifespan of existing landfills (this translates into millions of dollars saved per year)
- Offering a much needed service to recycle one of the most common type of plastics used in modern society.
- Helping contribute to reducing commercial and residential waste streams by up to 90%.
- **Reclaiming** a valuable commodity- by recycling polystyrene one of the main recycled products are trim, moldings and wood-based products. By using polystyrene to produce these materials fewer trees are cut down to be used for manufacturing.

# Key Terms

*Know your lingo*



**Densifies:** to compress or make something more dense, usually making something smaller and more compact.

**Landfill:** a system of trash and garbage disposal in which the waste is buried between layers of earth.

**Municipalities:** the government of a town or city.

**Polystyrene:** a stiff transparent plastic used chiefly in molded products, foams, and sheet materials.



**Reclaiming:** to obtain a product from waste to be re-used.

**Recycle:** to process (as liquid body waste, glass, or cans) in order to regain materials for human use.

**Single-use:** plastics that are also sometimes called disposable plastics, are used only once before they are thrown away or recycled. These items are things like plastic bags, straws, coffee stirrers, soda and water bottles and most food packaging.



# Conversation Questions

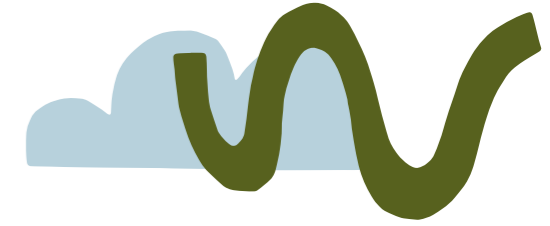
*Let's talk about it*

- What problem does Styro-Go address? How do they address that problem?
- What types of products do you use that are made from plastic?
- What steps come before recycling? Hint: They start with R's.
- What things can you do to use less plastic?
- What are some other items that you can recycle?



# Continuing Work

*Inspiration for your Emerald Youth Grant*



- Learn about the recycling program in your community, find out what you can recycle or what needs to be taken to the landfill. Ensure that your home has a proper system in place to support your recycling.
- Try to do Plastic Free July, or even Less-Plastic July, where you try to go an entire month without using single-use plastic products.
- Speak with your family and friends about switching to reusable materials, such as reusable water bottles and bags.
- When you go to a store, make sure to bring a reusable grocery bag with you!
- Before purchasing something new, ask yourself if there is another way to purchase it. For example, could you use another item that you already have for that purpose, or could you borrow one from a friend or family member, or can you buy it from a second-hand store, like GoodWill, or a sustainable business? This helps to produce less waste overall by reusing or re-purposing other items.
- Ask your community leaders how they manage waste, and what ways they plan to improve the current system.

# Resources

*Click to discover*

[Styro-Go Website](#)

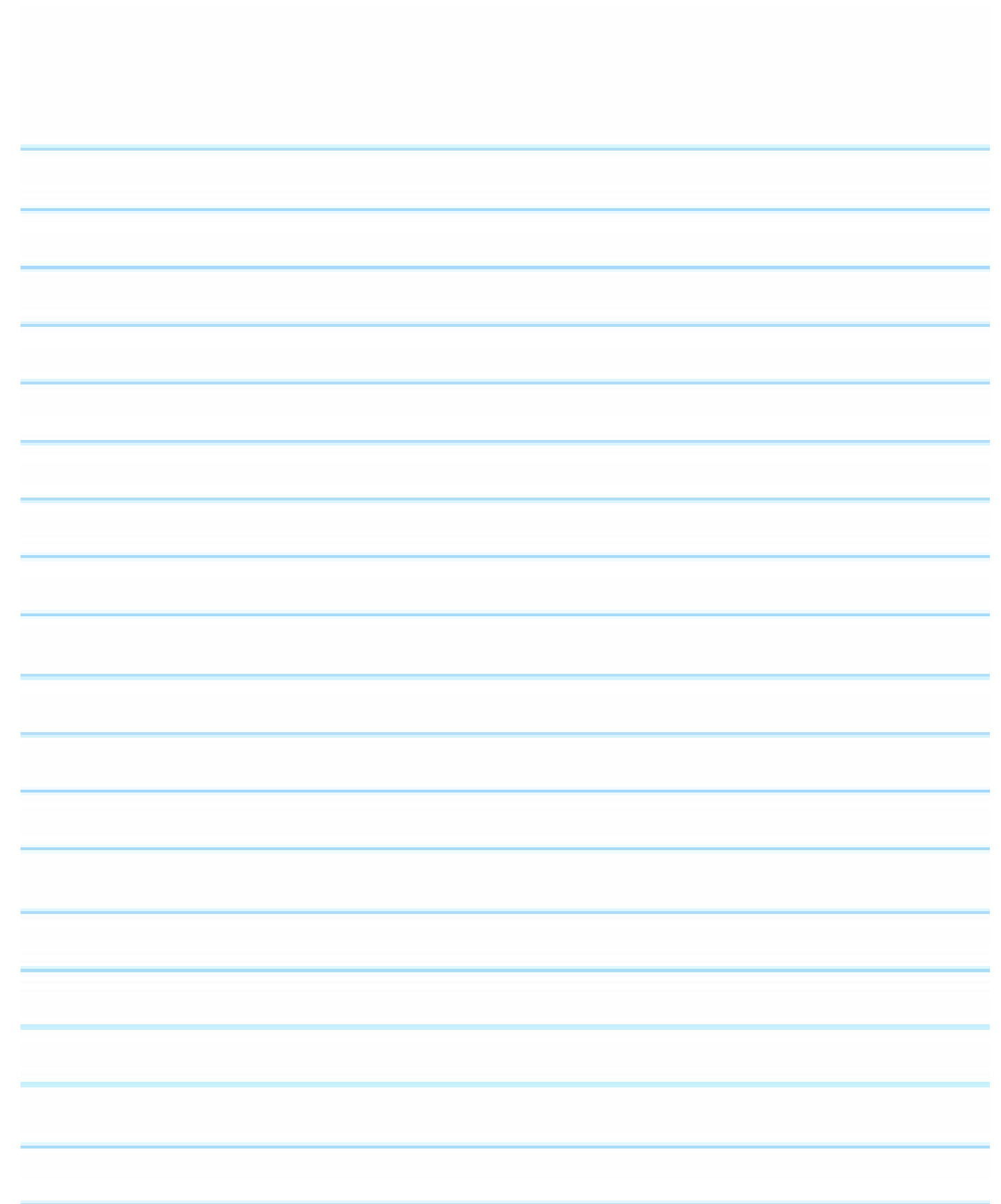
[Recycling Council of Alberta](#)

[Waste Reduction Week in Canada \(October 18-24, 2021\)](#)

[Britannica Kids](#) (used for Key Terms)

[36 environmental project ideas that you could get funding for!](#)

# Notes





# Emerald Youth Grants

The AEF would like to thank Syncrude Canada Ltd. for their sponsorship of the Emerald Youth Grants Program. As well, we'd like to thank Hoopla Media for their work on the Emerald Documentary Series.

This study guide was created and written by AEF Summer Student, Katherine Rogers.

[Click to apply for an Emerald Youth Grant!](#)

