



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 11, 2012

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**EPA Awards Grant to Product Stewardship Institute to Reduce Marine Debris  
on California Coasts**

*Institute will work with local universities to reduce plastic packaging on campuses*

**BOSTON, Mass.**---The [Product Stewardship Institute, Inc.](http://www.productstewardship.com) (PSI), a national nonprofit dedicated to reducing the health and environmental impacts of consumer products, today announced that it has received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce sources of marine debris in California. PSI will do this by reducing packaging waste in student centers, cafeterias, dining halls, and fast food restaurants on three coastal universities, thereby limiting the accumulation of harmful plastics in California's aquatic ecosystems.

"This is a great opportunity for us to collaborate with students, professors, and other environmental organizations to help preserve and protect the natural beauty of the Golden State's coastline," said Scott Cassel, founder and chief executive officer of PSI. "One of the best ways to do this is to use alternatives to plastic packaging, which is a major source of marine debris."

PSI will use the \$164,245 grant to develop and implement a pilot program to reduce plastic packaging on the Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, and San Francisco campuses of the University of California. Namely, PSI will work to reduce the use of disposable plastic water bottles by

40 percent and polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam™) take-out food containers by 80 percent. It will then analyze and publish the results of the pilot program to help other universities and fast food companies across the country adopt similar practices.

In addition to the three University of California campuses, other collaborators on the project include the the [Plastic Pollution Coalition](#) (PPC), [As You Sow](#), the [California Product Stewardship Council](#), and the [Clean Water Fund California](#).

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### **About the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI)**

The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to reducing the health and environmental impacts of consumer products. PSI brings together key stakeholders with conflicting interests to develop product end-of-life solutions in a collaborative manner, with a focus on having manufacturers assume primary financial and managerial responsibility. With a robust membership base of 47 state governments and over 200 local governments, as well as partnerships with more than 75 companies, organizations, universities, and non-U.S. governments, PSI advances both voluntary programs and legislation to promote industry-led product stewardship initiatives. For more information, visit PSI online at [www.productstewardship.us](http://www.productstewardship.us). You can also follow PSI on Twitter at [twitter.com/ProductSteward](https://twitter.com/ProductSteward) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/ProductStewardship](https://facebook.com/ProductStewardship).

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