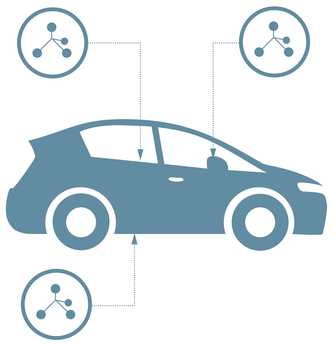
Examples of How Plastics Are Helping Reduce the Environmental Footprint of Consumer Goods

American Chemistry Council

TRUCOST



Using plastics instead of alternative materials makes vehicles lighter so they use less fuel

323 million liters (89 million US gallons)
of gasoline and diesel are saved over the lifetime of vehicles in North America[1]

Which means a saving to the North American economy of

$2.4 billion

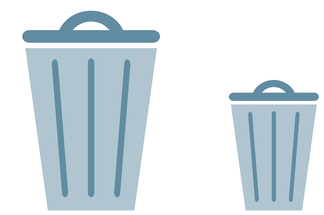
in environmental costs over the lifetime of cars sold in 2015[2]

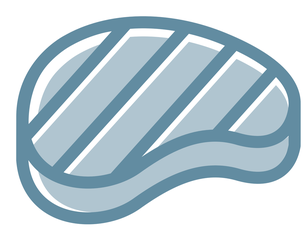
This represents net environmental savings of $162 per car in North America[3]

Modern plastic packaging for sirloin steak can **cut food waste by almost half** compared to conventional plastic packaging

This is a reduction of

34% waste to 18% waste





And a net environmental saving of

$606 per tonne

of beef sirloin sold in North America

And **over $2.18 million** in environmental savings to the North American economy for every additional 1% of sirloin steak sold in modern plastic packaging

Notes/Assumptions
1. Fuel savings over 13 year operating life of gasoline and diesel passenger vehicles sold in North America in 2015.
2. Environmental cost savings include avoided life cycle water consumption, greenhouse gas and air, land and water pollutant emissions associated with fuel production, distribution and combustion.
3. Assumes 13.8 million vehicles sold in North America in 2015.

All dollar values are in USD

Source: Trucost Plastics and Sustainability: *A Valuation of Environmental Benefits, Costs and Opportunities for Continuous Improvement*