

the truth about biobased packaging and food service ware

did you know?

1 Biobased doesn't guarantee lower environmental impact.

Not all biobased materials are created equally, and some use more energy or water, and result in more pollution than some fossil-based materials.

2 Trade offs happen!

Some biobased plastics used in packaging are made with resources from farms and can impact the environment in very different ways than traditional plastics. Some even result in higher fossil energy use due to how they are grown or made. So it isn't always easy to know which is better without looking deeper.

3 Biobased materials are not necessarily compostable or degradable.

Just because something is made from plants doesn't guarantee that the final package is compostable. Also, many biobased plastics are not marine degradable, so switching to biobased packaging cannot solve our marine plastics problem.

4 Choosing biobased isn't a reliable way to lower environmental impacts.

Biobased as a packaging attribute is of limited utility for predicting reduced environmental impacts because the material life cycles are very different.

Tips

- Change your default to reusable
- Refuse unnecessary food service ware
- Buy durable when possible

Biobased materials come from many of different sources, some include:



corn



sugarcane



food waste



algae



In 2018, Oregon DEQ released a series of reports that answered the question:
"How well do popular packaging attributes correlate with net environmental benefit?"
You can find the reports at <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/mm/production/Pages/Materials-Attributes.aspx>

conserve resources - protect the environment - live well