Share of Biodegradable Foils Increased in 2011

Source: FreshPlaza

Posted: May 11, 2012

The Dutch company Mediane has managed to position itself as an innovative producer of covers for Agro and Hort application in a relatively short time. Robert van der Laan, owner and manager of Mediane since 1992: "From the start we have - besides our traditional packagings - focussed on renewable bio degradable foils and are leading in the area of PLA covers in Europe since 2010."Important retailers in Europe are supplied by the company in Maarssen, the Netherlands. "Supermarkets such as Lidl, Aldi, C1000, Asda, Jumbo, Rewe, Netto, and many other use our packaging. Through our sales office in the United States, our products also find their way to the North America market, and Canada."

PLA instead of CPP

The share of renewable bio degradable foils compared to CPP foils (Cast Polypropylene) increase each year, according to Robert. "Especially in 2011 we've seen a reversal and we can see that our attempt to replace CCP with PLA wherever possible, is bearing fruit." Mediane has the Vincotte qualifications (Bio-Based and OK Compost) for the foil as well as the bio-inks. Vincotte even gave the cover producers the Bio-Based four star qualification. "Our focus will remain on Bio-Plastics in the near future. The strategy will be to level the difference in costs compared to traditional foil, by improved efficiency, technical developments and scale enlargement." PLA is ideal for many things in Agro and Horti and there is definitely a trend here according to Robert: "We think this development is irreversible. Increasing commodity prices for oil-based resources, are helping this." Recently Mediane added bio degradable PLA trays to their assortment. Robert expects to sell this product well: "We're specifically thinking of the herbal market here, but also the market for salads and fresh agro products."

Purac Presents Heat Resistant PURALACT® Lactide Innovations at PLAST 2012

Source: SpecialChem

Posted: May 9, 2012

Purac is presenting groundbreaking heat resistant solutions for Poly Lactic Acid (PLA) at the ongoing PLAST 2012 (8-12 May) in Milan, Italy at booth A79 in Hall 11. Purac is presenting its recent PURALACT® Lactide innovations. These innovations open up new possibilities for producers seeking high performance biobased plastic solutions. Purac's solutions for improved heat resistant PLA for the injection molding, thermoforming, extrusion, foam and fiber industries unlock bioplastic potential for durable applications in a range of high end markets such as automotive, carpet, clothing and consumer electronics and appliances. PLA now offers the possibility to replace PS, PP and ABS in those applications where heat resistance is a key requirement.

PURALACT® L & D based homo polymers - known as PLLA and PDLA - are the key to this improved heat performance and are now commercially available. Purac's technology offers the possibility to increase the heat stability of PLA to reach 80 to 180 degrees Celsius. At PLAST 2012, Purac demonstrates its capabilities by presenting thin wall thermoformed hot beverage cups produced from PURALACT® based PLA which are able to resist the high temperatures that are associated with hot beverages like tea or coffee.

High heat beverage cups can now be produced from PURALACT based PLA

Consumer electronic housings can now be made from PLA using PURALACT Lactides

About Purac

Purac was founded in 1931 and is a part of CSM, a global player in bakery supplies and food ingredients. With five production units worldwide, a global network of sales office, local application centers and over 1000 highly trained employees, we can always stay close to our customers.

Siemens Develop ABS Plastic Alternative

Source: ICIS Green Chemicals

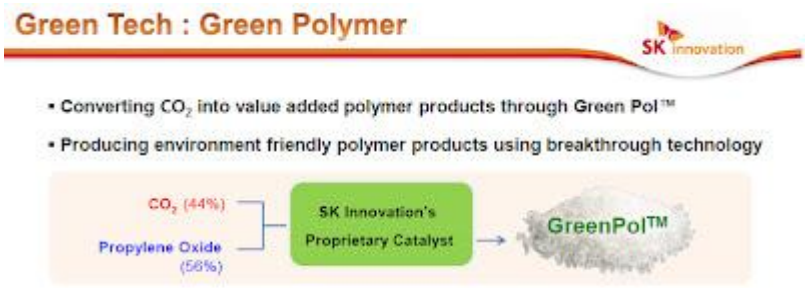
Posted: May 8, 2012

Researchers at technology company Siemens have developed an alternative material to polystyrene-based acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) plastic made from renewable-based polymers and carbon dioxide. The new material -- a result of a three-year project funded by the German Research Ministry and in collaboration with BASF, Munich Techical University and the University of Hamburg scientists -- is a mixture of polyhdroxybutyrate (PHB) bioplastic and carbon dioxide-based polypropylene carbonate (PPC) (containing 43% by weight CO2) supplied by BASF.

According to the press release, the new composite polymer has more than 70% renewable-based content. Bosch-Siemens-Hausgeräte (BSH) demonstrated its performance by using the material to make a vacuum cleaner cover under series-production conditions. In cooperation with BSH and BASF, the Siemens researchers now want to examine whether they can replace other types of plastic used by BSH with CO2-based composite materials.

Novomer recently partnered with US starch company Penford to develop and commercialize packaging materials made from starch-PPC composites, while Cardia Bioplastics have also developed a blend of PPC and starch plastics used for carrier bags under the trade name CO2S. Korea-based firm SK Innovation is also working on PPC under the trade name Green Pol. The company begun to produce PPC in a continuous process type pilot plant since late 2008 and according to the company's recent investor report, SK Innovation is planning to commercialize their Green Pol plastic around 2013-2014. Plant construction, commercial testing and market development for its Green Pol is already ongoing, according to SK Innovation. It's PPC, by the way, is a copolymerization of propylene oxide (56% by weight) and carbon dioxide (44% by weight) using a proprietary highly active catalyst based on Co-Salen.

By the way, SK Chemicals is already commercializing bioplastics under the brand name EcoPlan (resins made from PLA) and EcoZen - a proprietary polymer made with combined glycol modified polyethylene terephthalate (dubbed PETG under the brand SkyGreen) and a biobased monomer.



Innovia's Compostable NatureFlex Films Used for Coffee Packaging

Source: Food & Beverage Asia

Posted: May 4, 2012

Innovia Films' compostable, cellulose-based material, NatureFlex, is helping a New Zealand coffee roaster meet its commitment to being socially and environmentally responsible. Caffe Prima, based in Christchurch, has chosen to use Econic coffee bags. The bags were specifically developed by New Zealand converter, Convex Plastics, using NatureFlex renewable and compostable films in their construction.

"Coffee is a very demanding product to package because maintaining freshness and taste is absolutely paramount. Packs have to be puncture and impact resistant and offer high barrier and good seal integrity to keep oxygen out and aroma in. Coupled with this, Caffe Prima was looking for a solution that was kind to the environment. NatureFlex ticked all the boxes as far as we were concerned," said Andrew Sheerin, technical manager at Convex Plastics. A laminate construction was produced using three flexible films that are certified compostable and renewable: a reverse printed clear NatureFlex, high-barrier metallised NatureFlex and a starch-based biopolymer."Achieving success with partners such as Convex means that our NatureFlex films are well positioned to provide solutions to converters and brand owners. Especially those seeking to meet consumer demand for packaging made from renewable resources," said Robin Dearnley, Australia and New Zealand sales manager for Innovia Films.

NatureFlex films are certified to meet the American ASTM D6400, European EN13432 and Australian AS4736 standards for compostable packaging. The wood pulp is sourced from managed plantations from referenced suppliers operating good Forestry principles (FSC or equivalent). The renewable biobased content of NatureFlex films is typically 95% by weight of material according to ASTM D6866. NatureFlex has been confirmed as suitable for emerging 'waste-to-energy' techniques such as anaerobic digestion, aiding the diversion of organic wastes from landfill. NatureFlex was an obvious solution for use in this application as the film begins life as a natural product - wood - and breaks down at the end of its lifecycle in a home compost bin (or industrial compost environment) within a matter of weeks.

First Composting Certification Network Coming Soon

Source: European bioplastics

Posted: April 1, 2012

Producers, converters and users of bioplastics which are compostable according to the European standard EN 13432 / 14955 will soon be able to obtain the “seedling”, the EU-wide established eco-logo also via the Belgian certifier Vinçotte.

As of 1 April 2012 Belgium-based Vinçotte will join the German certifier Din Certco in awarding the compostability logo “seedling”. Certification follows a consistent certification scheme. A corresponding contract is being signed these days by European Bioplastics (trademark owner), Din Certco and Vinçotte.

European Bioplastics has been working with Din Certco for almost 15 years now. The renowned German certifier has awarded the “seedling” since 1997. Starting from 1 April 2012 the broader line-up of certifiers creates several benefits for both the bioplastics industry and the consumer:

1. The compostability certification network broadens the services offered to the industry and strengthens the perception of the ”seedling”.
2. Companies have more opportunities to get their products certified.
3. The marketing of products as compostable according to EN 13432 is also fostered.
4. In the end, consumers will profit from a broader range of quality assured and clearly labelled products as they can make informed buying decisions more easily.

“This will be the first certification network for compostable bioplastic products. We are positive that it will contribute significantly to a standardisation of compostability labels in Europe in the long run”, says Hasso von Pogrell, Managing Director at European Bioplastics.

The “seedling”

The “seedling” is the registered trademark of European Bioplastics. Products certified to be industrially compostable according to the European standard EN 13432 / 14955 may bear the “seedling” logo. The seedling, awarded by Din Certco since 1997, is a well established trademark in several countries of the European Union such as Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, and Poland as well as in Switzerland and the United Kingdom.