INTERNATIONAL FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION℠

Sustainability

Sustainable Packaging Working Group

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Vice President of Sustainability


INTERNATIONAL
FRESH
PRODUCE
ASSOCIATION™
Create a
vibrant future
for all.
We grow prosperity for the world
of fruit, vegetable & floral.
ADVOCATE
Advocacy • Foundation
CONNECT
Business Networking • Data & Insights
GUIDE
Expertise • Solutions

IFPA Sustainability Vision

Fresh produce is the original sustainability industry, with the health of the planet and its people at the core of the work. It's never been more crucial to discover social, economic, and environmental opportunities through sustainable actions. IFPA believes all business actions must be taken with an emphasis on sustainability. Therefore, IFPA is members' go-to resource for sustainability solutions, inspiring members to implement them to benefit the planet and the people on it, and to do so profitably. IFPA serves as a source of reliable information on sustainability tools and practices and validates practice adoption as well as providing the forum for member's sustainability journeys.

Sustainability Council- Mission & Outcome

MISSION: the Sustainability Council examines critical issues in the produce and floral sustainability landscape, including climate change, sustainable packaging, food loss/food waste, regenerative agriculture, social responsibility and market responsibility. Its goal is to drive programs and resources to enable members to understand the potential impact of these issues on their organizations and prioritize and plan for these issues in their business planning.

OUTCOME: the action taken on sustainability protects and grows value, supporting the prosperity of IFPA members globally.

Sustainable Packaging WG Co-Chairs

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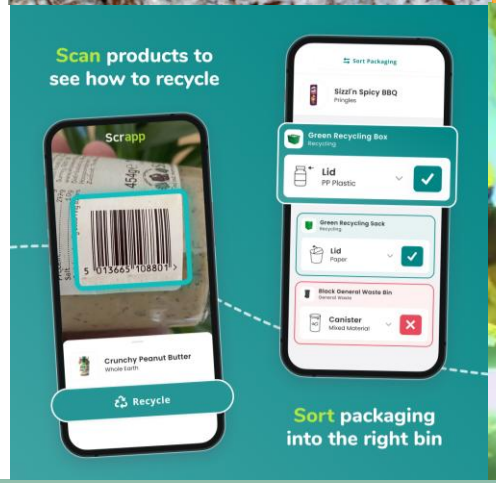
Our Role and Responsibilities

To establish best practices and guidance to the fresh produce industry specific to sustainable packaging.

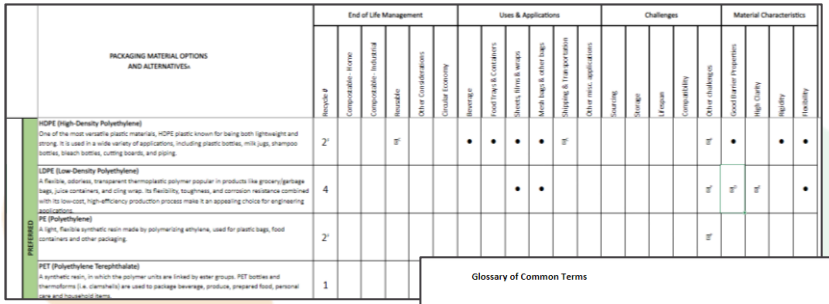
What We're Excited About

- Innovations in alternative materials
- Increasing awareness of material impacts
- Technology enhancements on packaging

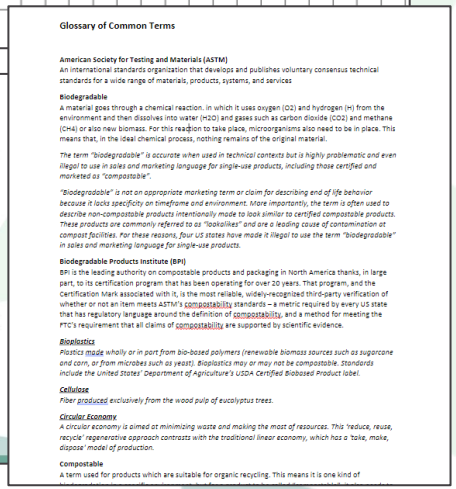


Achievements

- Sustainable Packaging Best Practices
- Glossary of Common Terms
- Member education



PACKAGING MATERIAL OPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES	End of Life Management						Uses & Applications						Challenges				Material Characteristics			
	Recycle #	Compostable: Home	Compostable: Industrial	Recyclable	Other Considerations	Circular Economy	Beverage	Food Trays & Containers	Stores, Utensils, wraps	Mesh bags & other bags	Shipping & Transportation	Other misc. applications	Sourcing	Storage	Lifespan	Compostability	Other challenges	Good Barrier Properties	High Clarity	Rigidity	Flexibility
PREFERRED																				
HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene) One of the most versatile plastic materials, HDPE plastic known for being both lightweight and strong. It is used in a wide variety of applications, including plastic bottles, milk jugs, shampoo bottles, bleach bottles, cutting boards, and piping.	2			✓			•	•	•	•	✓						✓	•		•	•
LDPE (Low-Density Polyethylene) A flexible, odorless, transparent thermoplastic polymer popular in products like grocery/garbage bags, juice containers, and cling wrap. Its flexibility, toughness, and corrosion resistance combined with its low-cost, high-efficiency production process make it an appealing choice for engineering applications.	4								•	•							✓	✓	✓		•
PE (Polyethylene) A light, flexible synthetic resin made by polymerizing ethylene, used for plastic bags, food containers and other packaging.	2																✓				
PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) A synthetic resin, in which the polymer units are linked by ester groups. PET bottles and thermoforms (i.e. clamshells) are used to package beverage, produce, prepared food, personal care and household items.	1																				



Glossary of Common Terms

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)
An international standards organization that develops and publishes voluntary consensus technical standards for a wide range of materials, products, systems, and services

Biodegradable
A material goes through a chemical reaction in which it uses oxygen (O_2) and hydrogen (H) from the environment and then dissolves into water (H_2O) and gases such as carbon dioxide (CO_2) and methane (CH_4) or also new biomass. For this reaction to take place, microorganisms also need to be in place. This means that, in the ideal chemical process, nothing remains of the original material.

The term "biodegradable" is accurate when used in technical contexts but is highly problematic and even illegal to use in sales and marketing language for single-use products, including those certified and marketed as "compostable".

"Biodegradable" is not an appropriate marketing term or claim for describing end of life behavior because it lacks specificity on timeframe and environment. More importantly, the term is often used to describe non-compostable products intentionally made to look similar to certified compostable products. These products are commonly referred to as "lookalikes" and are a leading cause of contamination at compost facilities. For these reasons, four US states have made it illegal to use the term "biodegradable" in sales and marketing language for single-use products.

Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)
BPI is the leading authority on compostable products and packaging in North America thanks, in large part, to its certification program that has been operating for over 20 years. That program, and the Certification Mark associated with it, is the most reliable, widely-recognized third-party verification of whether or not an item meets ASTM's compostability standards – a metric required by every US state that has regulatory language around the definition of compostability, and a method for meeting the FTC's requirement that all claims of compostability are supported by scientific evidence.

Bioplastics
Plastics made wholly or in part from bio-based polymers (renewable biomass sources such as sugarcane and corn, or from microbes such as yeast). Bioplastics may or may not be compostable. Standards include the United States' Department of Agriculture's USDA Certified Biobased Product label.

Cellulose
Fiber produced exclusively from the wood pulp of eucalyptus trees.

Circular Economy
A circular economy is aimed at minimizing waste and making the most of resources. This 'reduce, reuse, recycle' regenerative approach contrasts with the traditional linear economy, which has a 'take, make, dispose' model of production.

Compostable
A term used for products which are suitable for organic recycling. This means it is one kind of

Key Challenges

- Ever changing regulatory and retailer requirements
- Plastic divide
- Infrastructure
- Cost and time

Next Steps

1. Data collection from our packaging evaluation tool
2. Finalize building of the tool
3. Launch the tool on the IFPA site
4. Develop packaging side of charter