

SYMPHONY ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES HAS JOINED THE “SAVE THE PLASTIC BAG ALLIANCE”

Symphony Environmental Technologies Plc, (d2w.net) the degradable plastics specialist, announces — that it has joined the “Save the Plastic Bag Alliance” (www.savetheplasticbag.com) of leading plastics manufacturers in the United States to fight ill-informed attacks on plastic bags worldwide.

On March 8, 2008, *The Times* editorial said: “*Analysis without facts is guesswork. Sloppy analysis of bad science is worse. There is no place for bad science, or weak analysis, in the search for credible answers to difficult questions....*

Many of those who have demonized plastic bags have enlisted scientific study to their cause. By exaggerating a grain of truth into a larger falsehood they spread misinformation, and abuse the trust of their unwitting audiences.”

According to the UK Dept. for the Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (The Guardian, 3 October 2007) “*We don't think a ban or levy is the right way to go. In Ireland, people just bought more bin liners to replace free carrier bags, so the volume of waste stayed the same”.*

According to the Oxo-biodegradable Plastics Association (<http://www.biodeg.org/position-papers/Plastic-bag-bans/?domain=biodeg.org>) the humble plastic carrier bag is in fact a wonder of modern technology. Bags can be made very thin, with minimal raw material, but are still strong enough to carry a full load of heavy shopping. No other shopping container can carry 2,500 times its own weight, and stay strong when wet. A typical plastic carrier bag uses 70% less plastic today than 20 years ago. No other industry has a better track record in material reduction.

Plastic bags will protect the goods from dirt and rain, they are hygienic and can be made in an almost unlimited number of colours and designs. Despite all these attributes they are very inexpensive, and are by far the most cost-effective and functional solution available.

The bags can also be re-used many times over for shopping, and are compact enough to be put in a pocket or handbag. They are also put to many other uses in the home, and for other uses such as clearing dog-waste from the streets, and most of them will eventually serve as a bin-liner to safely collect and dispose of household waste.

Plastics are currently made from naphtha, which is a by-product of oil refining, which used to be wasted. This by-product arises because the world needs fuels and oils for engines, and would arise whether or not the by-product were used to make plastic goods. So, nobody is extracting or importing extra oil to make plastic. Until other fuels and lubricants have been developed for engines, it makes good environmental sense to use the by-product, instead of using scarce agricultural resources and water to make paper or cloth bags.

The only problem with plastic bags is that they are so well engineered that they will last too long after they have served their purpose, and can lie or float around in the environment for decades. Symphony's d₂w Controlled-life Technology has been developed to address this problem, by creating plastic for a wide range of uses (including polyethylene bottles) which will literally self-destruct after its useful life, leaving no harmful residues. It can be made with the same machinery as ordinary plastic, so there is very little extra cost, and no disruption of the supply-chain.

Compostable plastics made from crops are not a good alternative (<http://www.biodeg.org/position-papers/comparison/?domain=biodeg.org>) and in June 2009 Germany's Institute for Energy and Environmental Research concluded that oil-based plastics, especially if recycled, have a better Life-cycle Analysis than compostable plastics.

Symphony's d₂w can be found in more than 80 countries and in billions of plastic bags.

For further details, go to: www.d2w.net or www.biodeg.org

OR FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Max de Trense
CARTERET COMMUNICATIONS
Tel: +44 207-828-8598
M: +44 779-520-4078

Email: maxdet@onetel.com